

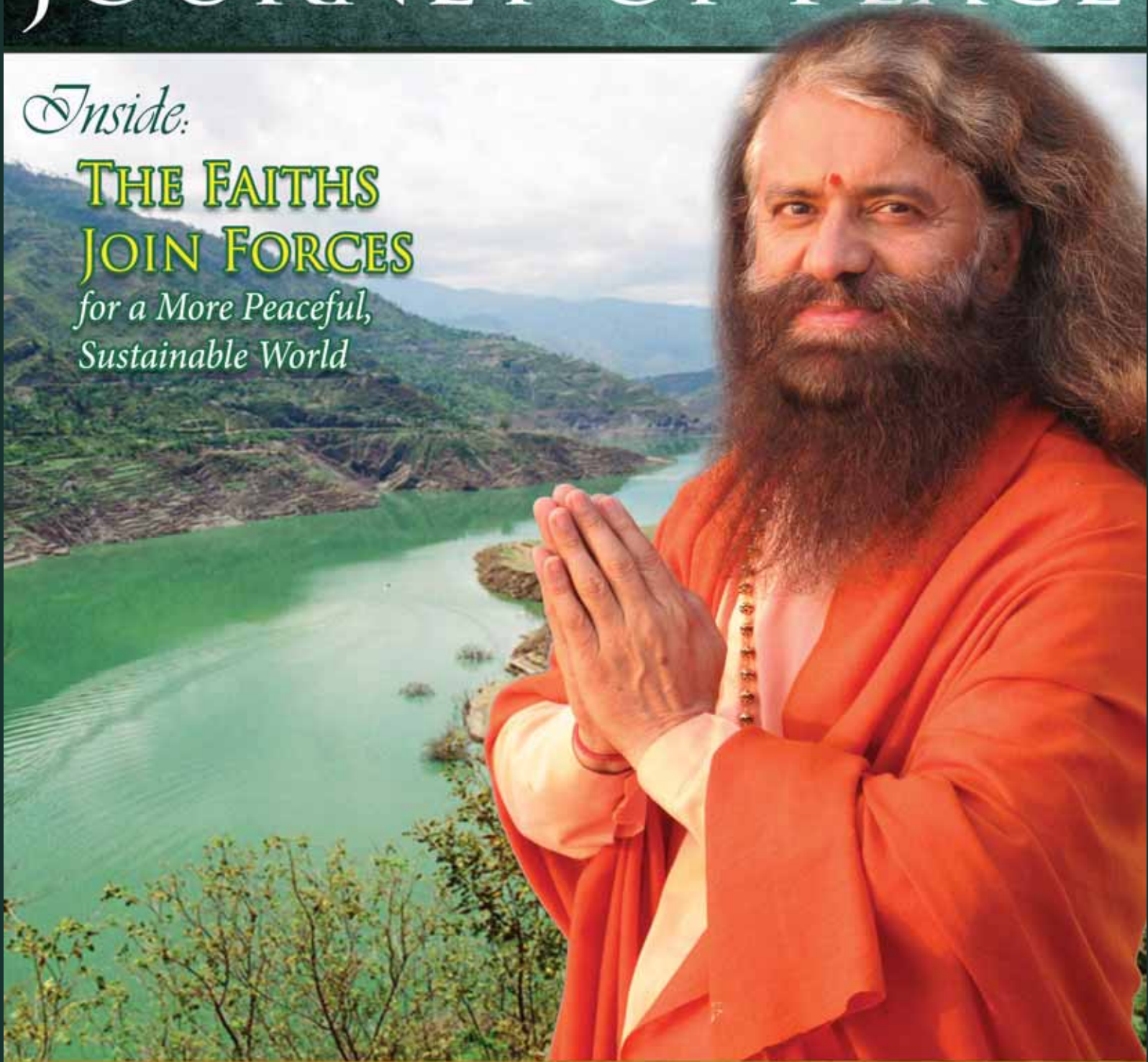


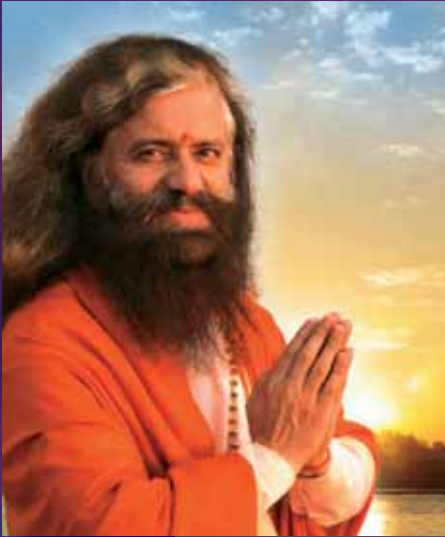
JOURNEY OF PEACE

Inside:

THE FAITHS JOIN FORCES

*for a More Peaceful,
Sustainable World*





Dear Divine Souls,

It is so beautiful to see the continuous progress being made by all of our myriad charitable, humanitarian and spiritual/cultural programs. They are truly being carried in the hands of the Divine and blossoming beautifully under God's grace. From emergency relief and long-term rehabilitation for survivors of Uttarakhand's floods, to the publication and launching of the international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, to the founding of an international interfaith alliance dedicated to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), to continued progress in our efforts to clean and green the waters and banks of Ganga, Yamuna and all of India's rivers. We strive to embrace, reach and touch all of humanity, for we know that the same Divine we worship in our temples, churches, mosques, synagogues and gurudwaras pervades all of creation.

I always say, "Giving is Living" and "Sharing is Caring." It is through service of the needy by sharing our overflowing abundance that we attain peace, joy, satisfaction and liberation in life. Seva, Sadhana and Samarpan --these are the keys to a successful, meaningful and divine life. Through our diverse array of projects and programs we seek to encompass all 3 of these essential components. Seva (selfless service) is carried forth through our free schools, orphanages/gurukuls, women's empowerment and upliftment programs, our efforts restore and protect the free and pristine flow of Mother Ganga as well as so many more activities. Sadhana -- through our spiritual, inter-faith and cultural activities, events and programs. Samarpan -- through our ceaseless dedication to God in all forms, humanity and Mother Nature.

Every time I see the light sparkle in the eyes of a child who has learned to read, every time I see the relieved smile on a face of a patient whose illness has been treated, every time I see someone touched and transformed through our numerous programs, I always remember our generous and selfless donors and volunteers who, with the grace of God, have made these miracles possible.

May God bless you all and all your families.

In the service of God and humanity,

Swami Chidanand Saraswati



Our Initiatives

Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

The faiths come together to help ensure Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all.
www.Washalliance.org

Parmarth Niketan

The largest ashram in Rishikesh and one of the largest interfaith spiritual institutions in India, Parmarth is home to the world-renowned evening Ganga Aarti ceremony and the annual International Yoga Festival.
www.Parmarth.org; www.InternationalYogafestival.org

The Divine Shakti Foundation

Dedicated to the holistic well being of women, their children, and orphaned/abandoned children, and to all of Mother Nature and Mother Earth.
www.DivineShaktiFoundation.org

Ganga Action Parivar

Bringing together networks and partnerships of the world's preeminent researchers, environmentalists, engineers, religious and business leaders, as well as members of the general public. Together, we work towards creating thoughtful solutions to the numerous problems plaguing the Ganga and its tributaries.
www.Gangaaction.org

Project Hope: Disaster Relief

Continuing Relief to End Suffering and Hardship
www.ProjectHope-india.org

Encyclopedia of Hinduism

An unprecedented encyclopedia, drafted by some 1,000 experts over a 25-year time-span.
www.TheEncyclopediaofHinduism.com

The Green Kumbh Initiative

Promoting clean and green festivals and public education for healthier populations and ecosystems.
www.Parmarth.org/updates/kumbha2016.pdf

The National Ganga Rights Movement

Bringing about a new paradigm for the protection of nature
www.Gangarights.org

India Heritage Research Foundation

Committed to education, healthcare, interfaith harmony and the upliftment of women. IHRF has also created ashrams in Mansarovar as well as the world's first comprehensive Encyclopedia of Hinduism
www.Ihrf.com

Interfaith Humanitarian Network

Organizing the faiths to save lives during humanitarian crises and to help prevent crises to come
www.InterfaithHumanitarian.org

Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)



Left to right: Alexandra V. Destin Pierre, Pujya Swamiji, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Xihutezcatl Martinez and UNICEF Executive Director, Anthony Lake.



Their Royal Highnesses, Charles Prince of Wales and Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, perform a GIWA Water blessing ceremony.



With World Bank President, Dr. Jim Yong Kim and leaders from Islamic Relief, Catholic Relief, American Jewish World Service, Sarvodaya Shramadana and NPR, Meeting at World Bank Headquarters.



GIWA Interfaith Water Blessing Ceremony at the House of Commons with Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadas, British MP, Keith Vaz and other dignitaries.



Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF presented with GIWA's Annual Report at UNICEF's New York headquarters.



Since the dawn of history, faith has provided a foundation from which social norms develop. It is to faith leaders that billions are drawn in times of joy and sorrow, as well as in the search for inner meaning. As teachers to the masses, the words of faith leaders motivate, persuade and enable. Through their speech and actions, they can bring about change in a way unparalleled by others.

An estimated 5 billion people around the world are members of religious communities, underscoring the critical role religious leaders can play in addressing seemingly intractable problems – such as access to safe water and sanitation.

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), of which Pujya Swamiji is co-founder, is the world's first initiative that is engaging the planet's many faiths as allies in efforts to create a world where every human being has access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene. GIWA was launched by UNICEF at UNICEF Headquarters during the United Nations General Assembly Meetings in New York at an event sponsored by USAID and the Government of the Netherlands.

Learn more at:
www.washalliance.org
 View our photo-filled Annual Report at
www.washalliance.org/annualreport.pdf



Launch of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance in India with (right to left): Mr. Tenzin Tsering, Representative to H.H. the Dalai Lama, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Maulana Luqman Tarapuri-a-Deobandi, National President of Global Imams Council, Archbishop Anil Cuoto of Delhi, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati GIWA Co-Founder/Co-Chair, Giani Gurubachan Singh, the Chief Jathedar of Akal Takht (Golden Temple), Nobel Laureate Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, GIWA Secretary General, Sue Coates, UNICEF India WASH Chief, Caroline den Dulk, UNICEF India Chief of Advocacy and Communication, Hendrik Van Norden, UNICEF South Asia Regional Advisor.



Interfaith leaders represent GIWA at dinner held at US Ambassador, Mr. Richard Verma's, residence to discuss WASH with some of India's most eminent WASH leaders, including USAID and UNICEF.



US Ambassador Mr. Richard Verma and his family at the ground breaking toilet ceremony at Girls Inter-College Rishikesh.



Signing the Declaration on behalf of religions leaders for action to mitigate climate change to be given to the United Nations Secretary General, at the Climate Change Conference organized by Religions for Peace and the World Council of Churches.



A beautiful water blessing is performed on the banks of Ganga with Indian recording star Sonu Nigam and renowned scientist, author and speaker Dr. Bruce Lipton.



GIWA delegates of many religions who traveled from around the world for GIWA's Launch at UNICEF Headquarters.



A GIWA Water Ceremony with UNICEF India Representative Louis-Georges Arsenaault after the signing of an MoU between GIWA and UNICEF India.



Dedication of bio-sand water filters which provide clean water for the children of Himalayan schools.



Pujya Swamiji leads a pledge of unity and joined commitment to work for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene amongst revered interfaith leaders and Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology, Gov't of India, at GIWA's Worship to WASH Summit in Leh, Ladakh.



GIWA Volunteers deliver a clean water system for the children of the disaster-stricken Himalayas, who had been previously drinking contaminated, brown water.



School children raise bars of soap in a GIWA pledge to wash their hands and share the wisdom with their friends and family.



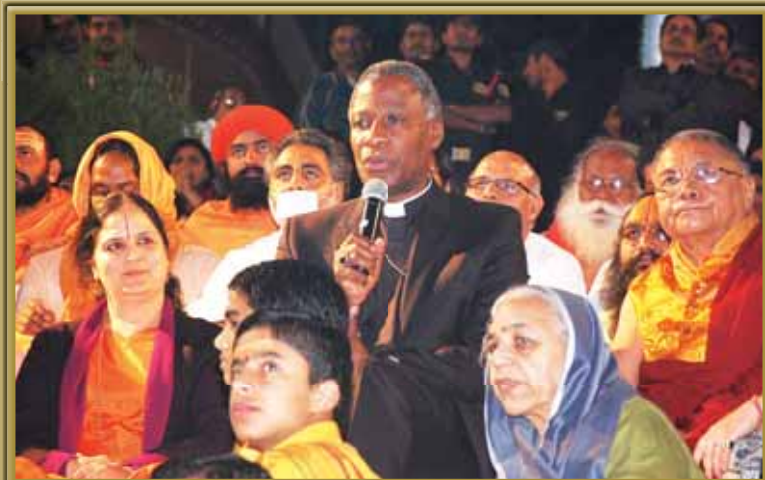
Hon'ble Uttarakhand State Minister of Education and Water, Shri Mantri Prasad Naithani, at a Biosand Water Filter MoU signing, in which he announced that GIWA will be inspiring clean water systems for Uttarakhand's schools.



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General of GIWA and Kiran Bali, Global Chair of United Religions Initiative and lead a GIWA Water Blessing Ceremony with other respected leaders at the House of Commons in London.



Distinguished Spiritual Leaders and Delegates at GIWA's Worship to WASH Summit of Leaders.



Most Revd. Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Capetown South Africa addresses the Worship to WASH Summit of Leaders.



Pujya MM Santoshi Ma, Pujya MM Maitreyi Giri and revered sadhvis perform a water blessing ceremony at GIWA's Women for WASH Summit.



Respected Bishops and Archbishops raise their hands for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all.



10,000 people take a pledge for improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at a katha broadcast worldwide.



A GIWA physician travels to a disaster-stricken area to deliver Shudhu water purification tablets and other forms of assistance.



Distinguished Spiritual Leaders and Delegates at The Women for WASH Summit of Leaders.



Inauguration of bio-digester toilet facility in Haridwar. The function was attended by leaders of the world's religions, executives from FICCI, DRDO and BHEL and friends of GIWA from around the world.



Senior Members of the World Bank's Departments of Water and WASH.



Professor Jack Sim, Founder of the World Toilet Organization, at an MoU signing with GIWA and GAP.



A portable water filter unit is delivered to a school in Uttarakhand.



Pledge to protect and preserve our water bodies with international teams from Uplift Connect and Unify.



Volunteers from around the world come together with GIWA to make bio-sand water filters for schools in need of clean water.



Saints and yogis from 85 countries pledge to protect all rivers during Yog Maha Kumbh in Haridwar.



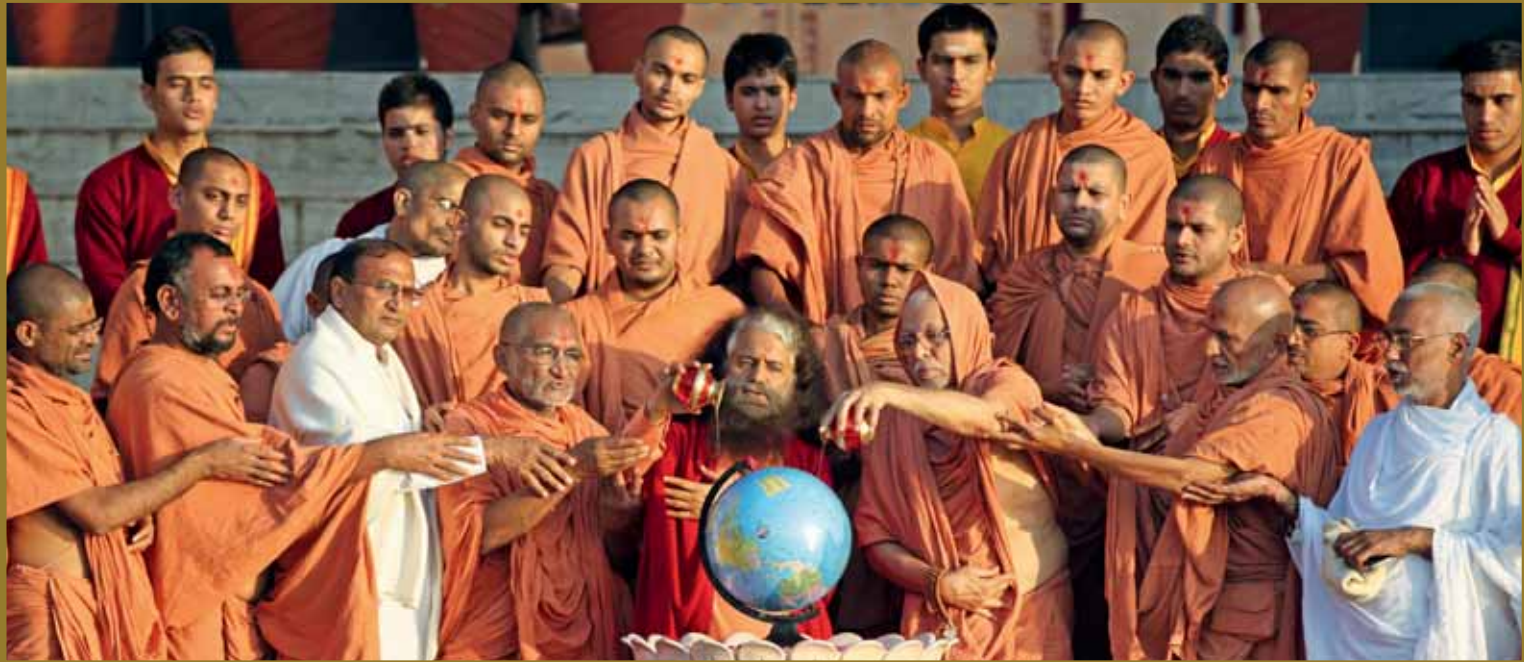
Pujya MM Swami Shukdevanand Saraswatiji's 50th Nirvaan Divas celebrated with a green pledge.



Pujya Swamiji felicitated by the Hon'ble US Ambassador Richard Verma



GIWA's Interfaith leaders come together to combat climate change at the Parliament of World Religions.



Revered saints of the Swaminarayan Tradition take part in GIWA's water blessing ceremony.



Interfaith leaders at the UN Church Center in NYC during the UN Assembly for the adoption of the SDGs.



Launch of the Banega Swachh India (Let's Make India Clean) Campaign with respected dignitaries in Lucknow, UP.



Peace prayers led by GIWA in honour of interfaith harmony.



Hundreds of saints pledge for protecting rivers during a special bhandara.



PARMARTH NIKETAN

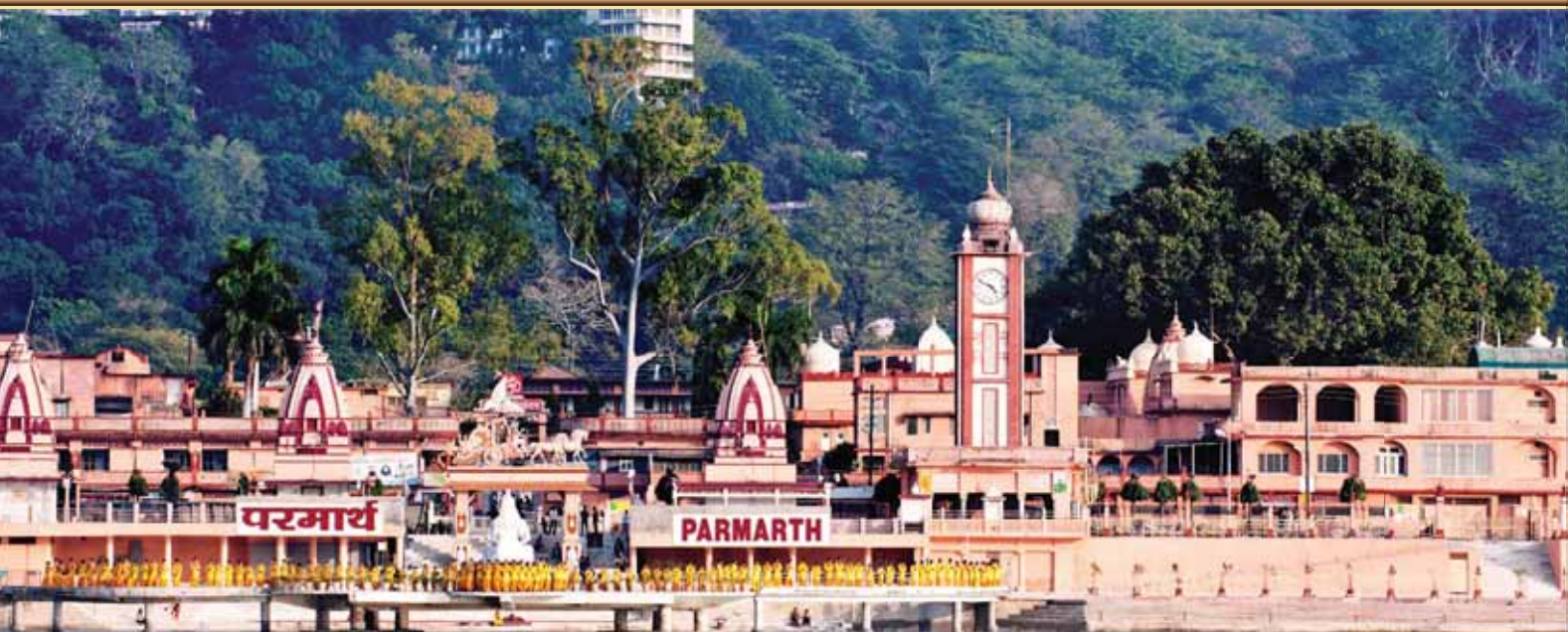


*Welcome home to the birthplace
of yoga on the beautiful banks of Mother Ganga*



Parmarth Niketan, of which HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji is President, is a true spiritual haven, situated on the holy banks of Mother Ganga in the lap of the lush Himalayas. It is the largest ashram in Rishikesh, providing its thousands of pilgrims who come from all corners of the Earth with a clean, pure and sacred atmosphere, as well as abundant, beautiful gardens. With over 1,000 rooms, the facilities are a perfect blend of modern amenities and traditional, spiritual simplicity.

The word “Parmarth” means “Dedicated to the Welfare of All,” and Parmarth Niketan is also one of India’s largest interfaith institutions, which supports humanitarian projects and programmes that bring together people from all religions, so all can work together to ensure a better world for all.





Parmarth Niketan's World-Renowned International Yoga and Meditation Centre



GANGA AARTI

Ganga is not only a river. She is a Divine Mother, giving freely to all with no discrimination, hesitation or expectation. She irrigates not only our farms, but also our hearts, minds and souls.

Yet, the Ganga is also one of the most polluted rivers and endangered rivers in the world. Understanding that people won't pollute the same place that they worship, Pujya Swamiji began a mission to initiate Ganga Aarti ceremonies (lighting ceremonies) up and down the banks of Ganga and to convince as many ashrams as possible to turn their river fronts into places of worship.

The Ganga Aarti held every night at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, draws people of all faiths from across the world to enjoy a serene sunset ceremony of song, inspiration and lights.

Pujya Swamiji has also been the inspiration and founder of Ganga Aarti ceremonies in Varanasi (on the eve of the turn of the Millennium with H.H. the Dalai Lama and numerous other saints), Allahabad, Badrinath, Gangotri, Rudraprayag, Kanpur, Jwalapur, and many other locations.





INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL

Parmarth Niketan's world-famous International Yoga Festival is a beautiful time of seeing the world come together in the name of yoga, or union, on the holy banks of Mother Ganga. In 2016, more than 1200 people from 85 countries came to learn asana, pranayama, kriyas and meditation from over 60 presenters from 20 different countries. Each year IYF provides participants with darshan, satsang and inspiring discourses by revered saints and yogis, who fill the atmosphere with bhakti yoga (devotion) and gyan yoga (wisdom). Then, they joined hands together in karma yoga (service) and cleaned the banks and waters of Mother Ganga, pledging to work to protect and preserve the water bodies in their own cities and countries across the world.

To learn more, visit www.internationalyogafestival.org



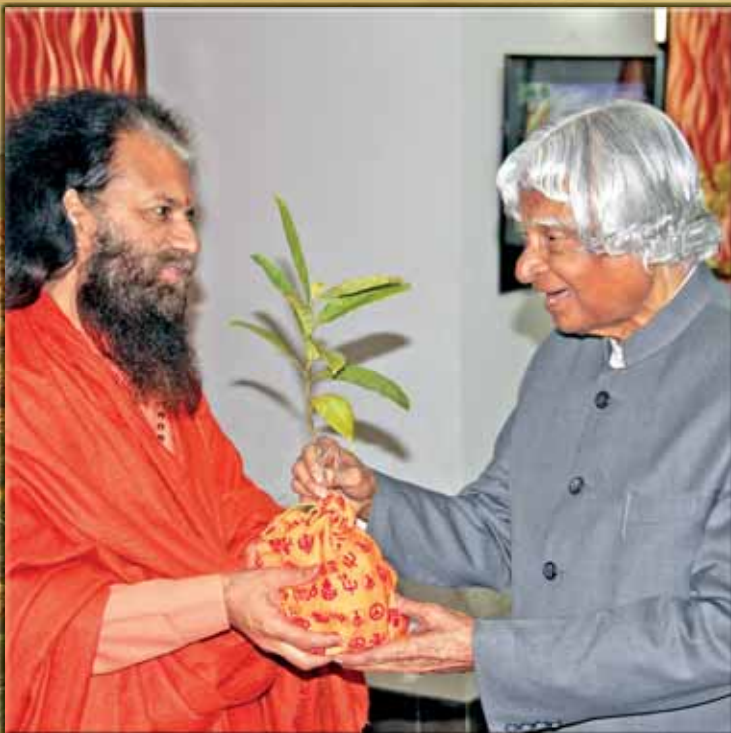
A Lifelong Journey of Peace



H.E. Hon'ble President of India
Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee



Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of India



Presenting a sapling to Late H.E. Hon'ble former
President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam



Hon'ble Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari,
Vice President of India



Presenting H.E. the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzō Abe with water from the holy Ganga River



With Mr. David Cameron, Former Prime Minister of Great Britain at the launch of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism.

Every year, as part of His mission of peace, Pujya Swamiji interacts with numerous world leaders – spiritual leaders, social leaders, and political leaders – in His international travels or when they come home to seek Pujya Swamiji's blessings on the banks of Mother Ganga.



H.E. Shimon Peres, President of Israel and Rabbi David Rosen in Jerusalem



Former President of the United States of America, H.E. Bill Clinton, at the World Economic Forum



Pujya Swamiji makes a Flagship Presentation with World Bank President, Dr. Jim Yung Kim, at World Bank Headquarters on the importance of the coming together of faith leaders to help end the causes of global poverty.



H.E. the Hon'ble former President of India Smt. Pratibha Patil



Hon'ble President of the Republic of Guyana, H.E. Donald Ramotar

"We must not only pray for peace, but we must work for peace, every minute and every moment of our lives."

- Pujya Swamiji



Inspiring Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal, Shri Paramanand Jha, on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)



Former Vice President of the United States and Nobel Laureate, Al Gore, at the Religions for the Earth Summit on Climate Change in New York



HRH Prince Faisal Bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Saud, Minister of Education, Saudi Arabia



Discussing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) with H.E. the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma



After discussions on WASH with U.S. Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard



His Excellency, Archbishop Desmond Tutu

FAITHS FOR PEACE

Pujya Swamiji brings together the world's faiths for a more peaceful, healthy and sustainable world.



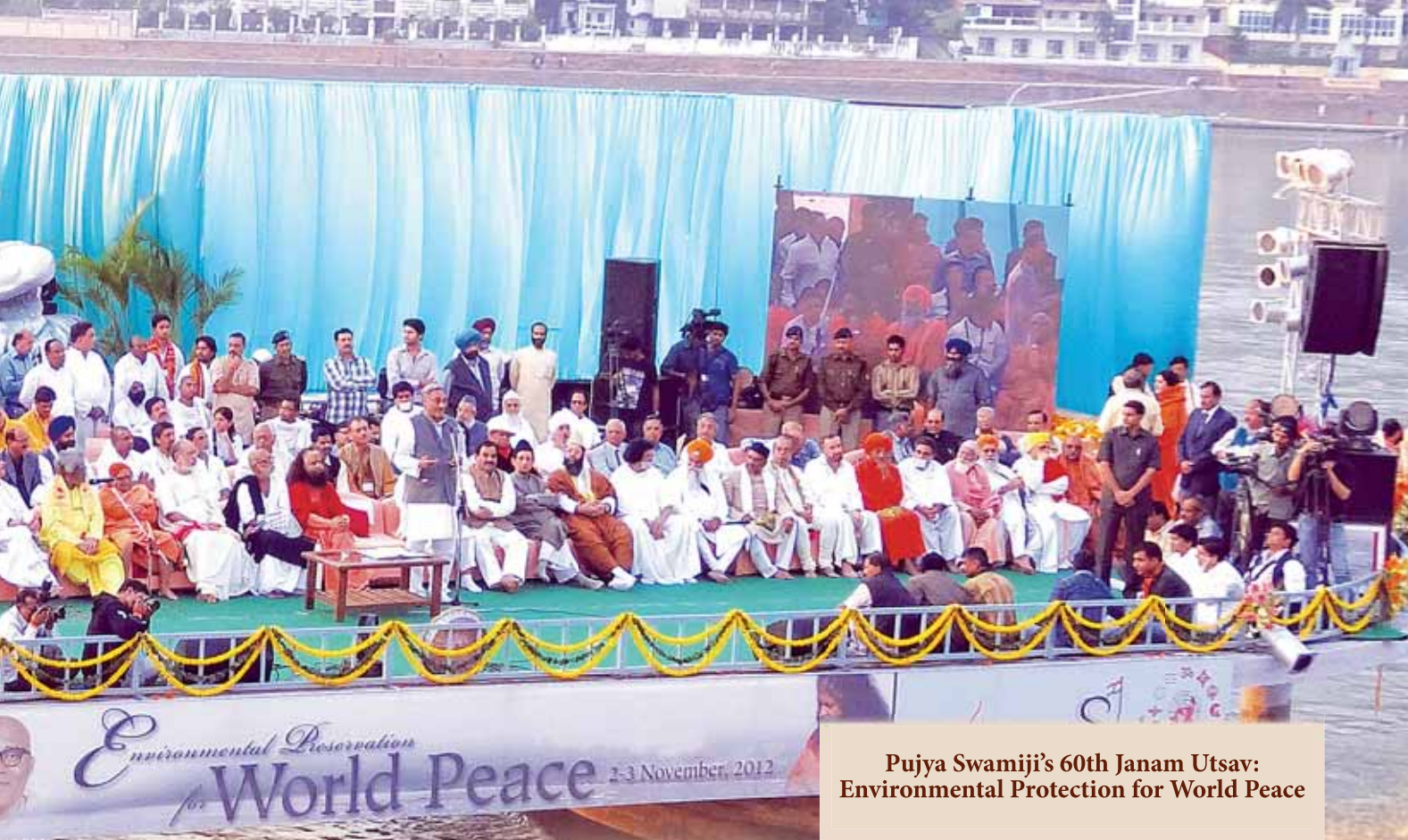
A loving greeting from H.H. the Dalai Lama.



Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thami, Emir of Qatar, at the World Economic Forum.



Distinguished leaders from many faiths raise their hands in an act of unity for a sustainable world at a historic convocation of the prestigious Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.



His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, and special advisor to HH Pope Francis.



A warm discussion with the Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch.





Chief Jathedar of the Golden Temple, Giani Gurubachan Singh greets Puja Swamiji on His 60th Janam Utsav.



Puja Shankaracharya Swami Jayendra Saraswati.



A loving discussion with Puja Rakeshbhai Jhaveri of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission.



His Excellency Cardinal Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue in the Vatican.



Venerable Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, with former Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in Exile



Acharya Shri Mahashraman, eminent saint of the Jain tradition.



HH the Dalai Lama and revered spiritual leaders from India's many faith traditions during a historic two-day "Meeting of Diverse Spiritual Traditions in India".



Maulanna Wahiduddin Khan Sahib at Rashtrapati Bhavan, after meeting with H.E. the President of India.



Pujya Mata Amritanandamayi Devi at the United Nations in New York.



Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt of India, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and GIWA's interfaith leaders join in a water blessing and pledge to protect and preserve all water bodies.



Faisal A. Bin Muaammar, Secretary General King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) at the KAICIID Summit.



Discussing the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance with Dr. Shaun Casey, Head of the US State Department's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives.



Dr. Bill Vendley, Executive Director, Religions for Peace and Rabbi David Rosen, Director of the American Jewish Committee's Department of Interreligious Affairs, and Sharon Rosen.



Respected faith leaders light the lamp with prayers for peace and togetherness to inaugurate the People's SAARC conference in Bombay, which was convened by Mukesh Ambani's Observer Research Institute.



Mustafa Ceric, President of the World Bosniak Congress, former Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Brave interfaith unity brings calm and togetherness amidst the violence of faith riots in Muzaffar Nagar.



Pujya Swami Ramdev, Pujya Swami Satyamitranand Giri, Pujya Ramanandacharya Hansdevacharya
Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri, Pujya Avichal Swami and other saints.



First meeting of saints and dignitaries at Guru Sangamam, a body composed of the
leaders of the indigenous religions of India.



With the youth leaders of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation
at their Leadership Training in London



Sadhvi Bhagawati speaks at the United Nations
during a conference on Sustainability and
Globalization organized by the UN Alliance of
Civilizations, Global Citizen Forum
and United Federation for Peace.



United Religions Initiative Founder/President Bishop Rt. Rev. Bill Swing, Bishop of California, Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus and URI Executive Director, Victor Kazanjian.



Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati is lovingly greeted.



Pujya Sri Mooji, renowned meditation teachers Jack Kornfield and Trudy Goodman at the International Yoga Festival at Parmarth.



Dr. Kalbe Sadiq Sahib, the Vice President of the Muslim Personal Law Board



A GIWA water blessing ceremony by esteemed faith leaders at the Launch of GIWA India.



Pujya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati of Jyotirmath and Diwan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan, Ajmer Sharif Shrine inspired to take the pledge for peace and oneness.



Sarva Dharma Sansad (Parliament of Religions), of which Pujya Swamiji is Convenor, holds an interfaith gathering and dialogue in Rishikesh.



Being presented with a special proclamation of appreciation, love and respect from the Sikh Dharma Worldwide Community.



Sharing a loving moment with
Pujya Swami Ramdev and Pujya Acharya Sudhanshu.



Meeting of Guru Sangamam: with
Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Pujya Jaggi Vasudev.



Agape International Spiritual Center's Rev. Michael
Beckwith and Rickie BB bask in love and laughter.



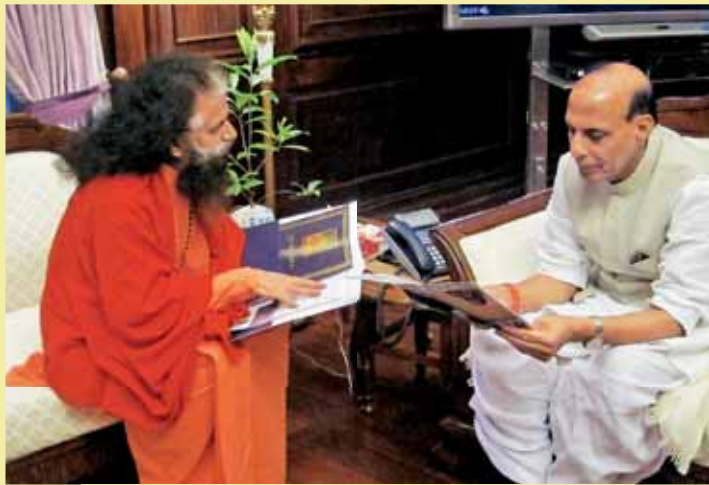
HH the Gyalwang Drukpa, the spiritual head of the
800-year-old Drukpa Order pledge for WASH.



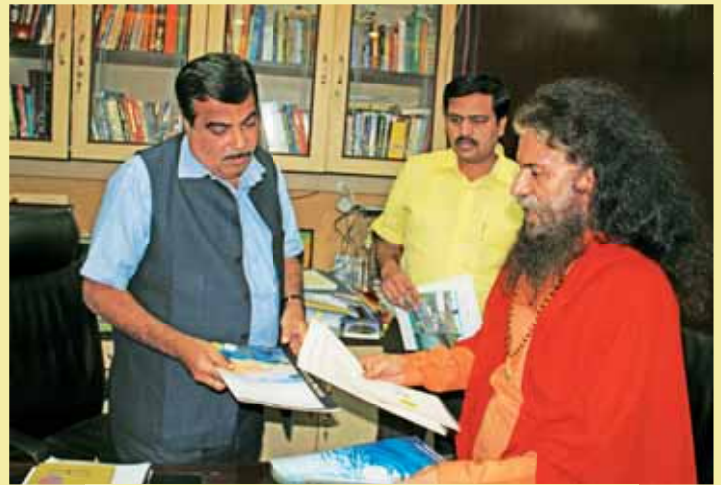
The Alliance of World Religions Summit for Peace in Seoul, South Korea -- Opening Day Parade.

INSPIRING INDIA'S LEADERS

For a Clean and Green India and a More Peaceful World



Union Minister of Home Affairs, Hon'ble Shri Rajnath Singh discussing GIWA and GAP's White Papers on the Ganga, Yamuna and Uttarakhand.



Discussing GIWA'S and GAP'S White Papers on Ganga & Yamuna with Hon'ble Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Shipping and Highways, former Minister of Drinking Water, Sanitation & Rural Development



Discussing plans for a Clean Revolution in India with Hon'ble Minister of HRD and former Minister of Environment Shri Prakash Javedekar.



Discussing plans for cleaning the Ganga River with Hon'ble Uma Bharti, Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.



Discussing the cleaning and greening of India's railway system with Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu.



Discussing a clean, green and sustainable vision of tourism and Incredible India with Hon'ble Minister of Tourism and Culture, Shri Mahesh Shara.



Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, is presented with a beautiful tree by Pujya Swamiji during a meeting in which they discussed a vision for a greener, more water-sustainable world.



Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles and former Minister of Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani and Pujya Swamiji discuss the "My Tree: My School" programme and bio-toilets in every school.



Discussing the importance of bringing about an Organic Revolution with Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh.



Presenting a shawl to Hon'ble Shri Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.



Pujya Swamiji presents a copy of the Ganga Rights Act to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Law & Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and appeals for legislation to protect the National River.



Sharing details of Parmarth's International Yoga Festival with Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH Shri Shripad Naik.

UNITED IN FRIENDSHIP

Within the United Kingdom and Beyond



Lighting the inaugural lamp at the launch of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism in London with Hon'ble Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha.



Pujya Swamiji presents Mr. Tony Blair with a mala .



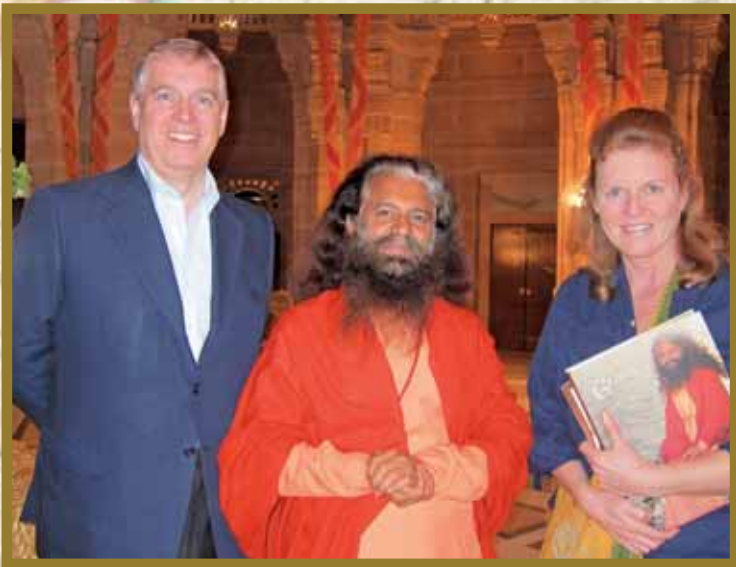
Leading a prayer at the House of Commons with renowned faith leaders and Rt. Hon'ble Keith Vaz, MP of Leicester, during a Water Blessing Ceremony, with prayers for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for everyone, everywhere.



GIWA Signs an MoU with Thames-21, followed by a clean-up of the Thames River.



Mr. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and faith leaders at the Tony Blair Faith Foundation Meeting in Delhi.



HRH Prince William, Duke of York and Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York.



Meeting with Andrew Feldman, Chairman of the Conservative Party regarding programs with the Honourable Prime Minister of the UK.



British MP, Priti Patel, offers her support and enthusiasm for the Encyclopedia of Hinduism and numerous other projects.



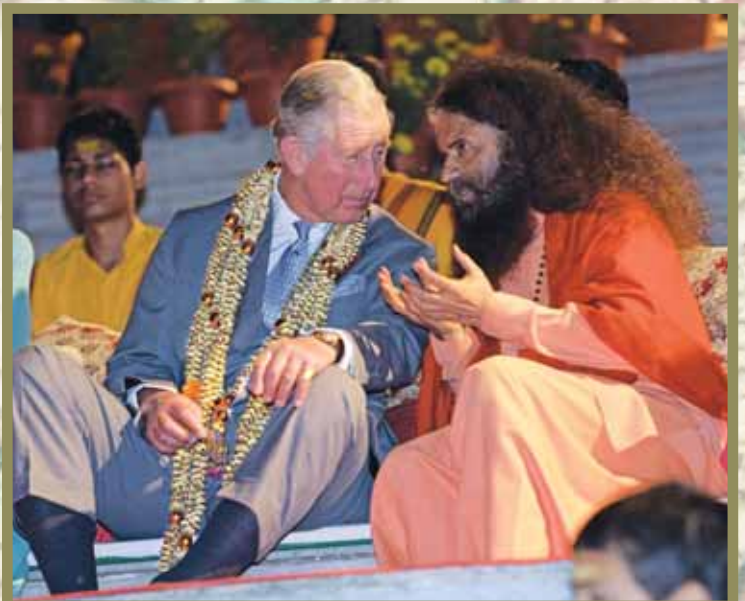
British MPs Paul Boetang and Barry Gardiner in London.

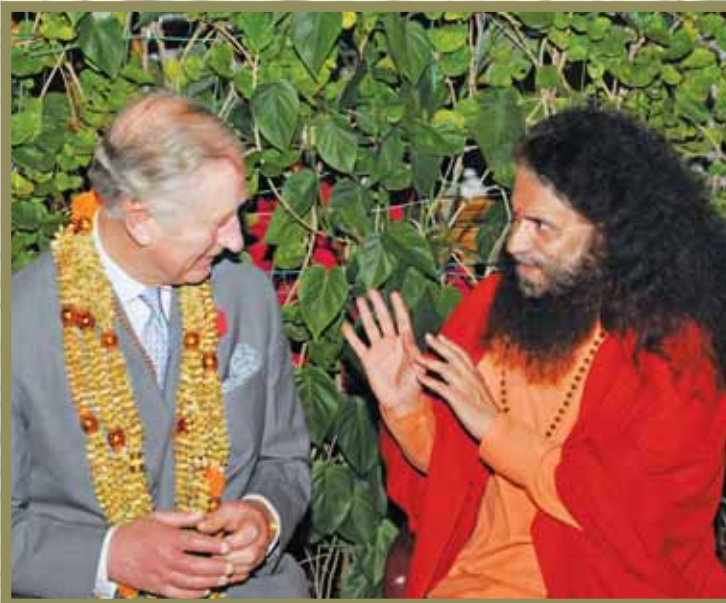


Their Royal Highnesses, Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, graced Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh with an official visit just days before HRH Prince Charles' 65th birthday in 2013. It was the first destination of their nine-day visit to India. During their visit, they participated in a beautiful Ganga Aarti ceremony as well as a ceremony in which waters from around the world were poured onto a globe with prayers for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for all.

His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, shared beautiful words of inspiration and spoke about how glad he was to be present for this ceremony and also how pleased he was to have heard about the wonderful work for the environment and humanity being done by Pujya Swamiji. He said: "It has been a particular pleasure to meet Swamiji, about whom I have heard so much. I know that he and his ashram, and all the work that he and his colleagues do, is of remarkable significance."

Near the conclusion of their visit to Parmarth Niketan, Pujya Swamiji presented the royal couple with a sacred rudraksha tree, which serves as a symbol for the crucial importance for all people to come together from all places to ensure a greener, cleaner, more sustainable world.





ENTERTAINERS FOR PEACE

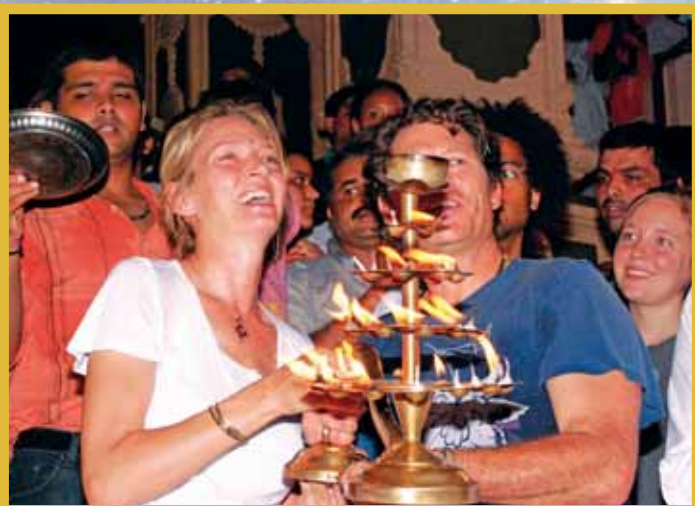
The stars are inspired to shine for a more peaceful world



A beautiful meeting with famous singer, Sting, and his wife, Trudie Styler.



America's top recording artist, Macklemore, discusses a sustainable and green future for the world.



Actress Uma Thurman comes to Parmarth Niketan and performs sacred Ganga Aarti.



Pujya Swamiji gives satsang at the home of actress Demi Moore in Hollywood.



Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and esteemed businessman Gopichand Hinduja take part in purnahuti of sacred peace yagna on the first day of Maha Kumbha Mela.



Bollywood actress Preiti Zinta during Mauni Amavasya at the Maha Kumbha Mela in Allahabad.



Famous singer Kailash Kher offers his full support in creation of a "Ganga Anthem."



Top Indian recording artist, Sonu Nigam shares a beautiful song during the sacred Ganga Aarti at Parmarth Niketan.



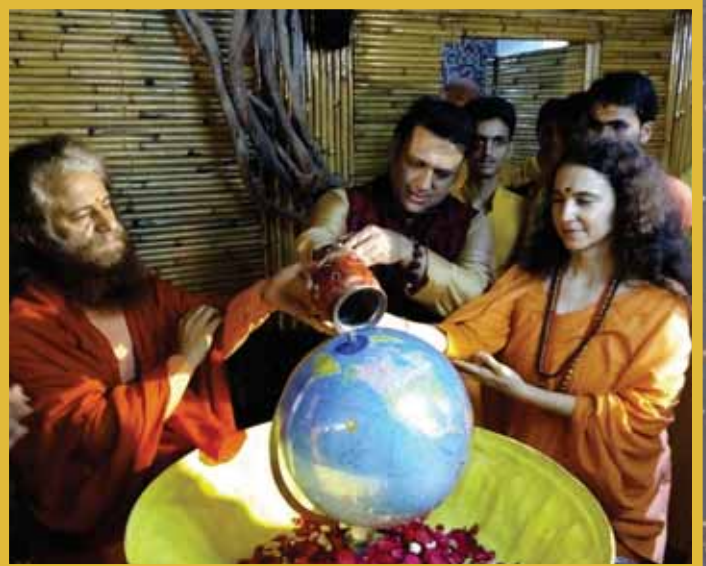
Blessing actor Anil Kapoor and his family.



Sonu Nigam, Kailash Kher, Vivek Oberoi and Vibhavkant Upadhyaya enjoy a moment of love and laughter.

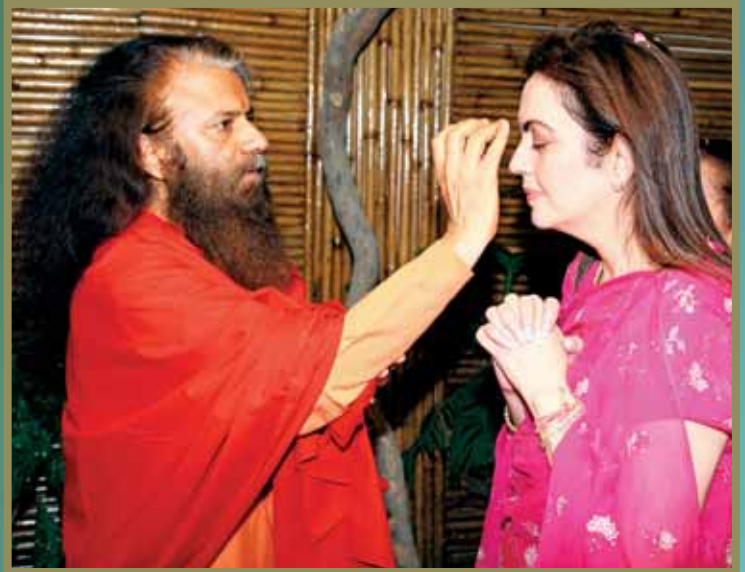


Speaking with actress Dia Mirza about protection and preservation of Ganga.



Water Blessing Ceremony with famous Bollywood actor Govinda.

HUMANITARIAN INDUSTRIALISTS, AND RENOWNED LEADERS *Coming together For peace*



Blessing Nita Ambani that her service for the poor and needy may continue to flourish.



Shri S.P., Shri P.P, Shri A.P. and Shri Sanjay Hinduja at their home in London.



Shri Mohanlal Mittal, the “Steel King” and father of Shri LN Mittal receives blessings after a sacred peace yagna.



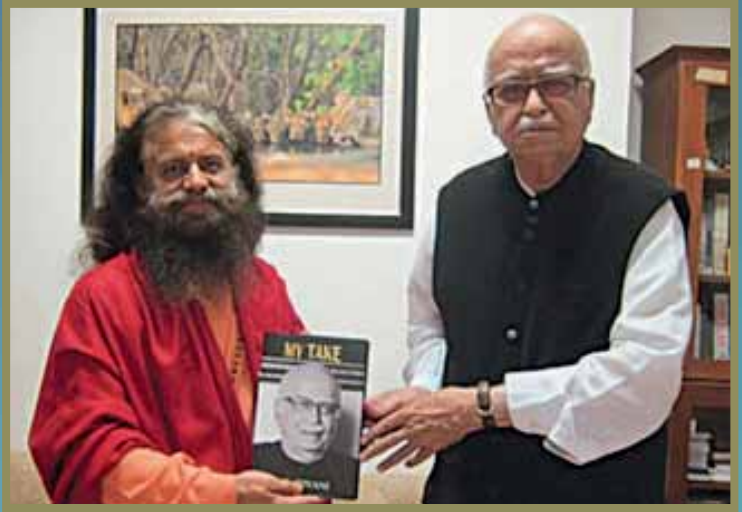
Arriving in Muzaffarnagar for the bhoomi puja of the Shiva Temple being built by Shri Ajay Gupta of South Africa and his family.



Presenting the Encyclopedia of Hinduism to Shri Chandru and Smt. Sunita Kewalramani in London, with renowned Muslim leader and author, Sayyed Ata Mohajerani.



Discussing plans/projects and ideas for the betterment of India with RSS Chief Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji.



Shri LK Advaniji, Former Deputy Prime Minister of India, presents a copy of his acclaimed new book, "My Take".



With Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, discussing the Ganga, Yamuna and Gomti Rivers.



Shri Kishore Lulla, CEO of Eros Entertainment, and his family come to Parmarth on Kishoreji's birthday to seek Pujya Swamiji's blessings and inspiration



1,000 journalists, Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Hon'ble Shri Hariwsh HE Shri B.L. Joshi, then of Uttar Pradesh and then Honourable Union Minister of Water Resources, Shri Harish Rawat, join Pujya Swamiji in raising their hands for the world's first Media Social Responsibility Declaration, which is for a cleaner, greener Ganga & improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for all.

Encyclopedia of Hinduism



Presentation of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism to the Hon'ble President of India with Mananiya Shri LK Advani and Minister of Law and Justice, Gov't of India, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.



Singing the national anthem, led by Sonu Nigam, at the presentation of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism to the Hon'ble President.



The first volume of the Encyclopedia is blessed by (right to left): Pujya Bhaishri, Pujya Swami Ramdev, Pujya M.M. Swami Asanganand, Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Acharya Balkrishna.



Presenting the Encyclopedia of Hinduism to Nikki Haley, the Governor of South Carolina, USA.



Launch of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism in London by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of England Mr. David Cameron with (left to right) Lord Dolar Popat, MP, Lord Andrew Feldman, President of the Conservative Party, Ramniklal Solanki C.B.E., Kalpesh Solanki, G.P. Hinduja, Shailesh Solanki, Pujya Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawati, Samantha Cameron, Chandrukewal Ramani, Raoul Goff, Publisher of the Encyclopedia and Prity Patel, MP.

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji conceived of the idea for an Encyclopedia of Hinduism in 1987 when He was in Pittsburgh, USA, after establishing the Hindu-Jain Temple there. In order to bring the vision to fruition, He founded and chaired the India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF). Over the next 25 years, IHRF, with more than 1000 scholars from around the world, led by Dr. K.L. Seshagiri Rao, Late Dr. Pandit Vidya Niwas Mishra and Dr. Kapil Kapoor, compiled the first Encyclopedia of Hinduism in history.

Eleven gorgeous volumes, approximately 7000 entries and thousands of illustrations, comprise the recently-completed and launched encyclopedia. The Encyclopedia was previewed and blessed in India by HH the Dalai Lama and many revered saints. The academic launch of the international edition, published by Mandala Earth Publications of California, USA, was hosted by the University of South Carolina,

Columbia, USA in the summer of 2013 in the presence of the Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, and many other dignitaries and internationally-esteemed scholars. The first set in India was presented to the Hon'ble President of India in a grand function in June 2014 in the presence of revered faith leaders, national leaders, social leaders and celebrities.

The Encyclopedia was presented to the Hon'ble President of India HE Pranab Mukherjee at a glorious function in June 2014 by revered interfaith religious leaders, distinguished cabinet ministers, and dignitaries. In October 2014, the Encyclopedia was officially launched in India by the hands of the Hon'ble Vice President of India Dr. Hamid Ansari & Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat with renowned religious leaders and dignitaries. On the 27 October 2014, the Encyclopedia was launched in London by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of England Mr. David Cameron.



Launch of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism in New Delhi by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari & Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat with (left to right) Bollywood Actor Vivek Oberoi, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Dr. Pranav Pandya, Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of Human Resources Development, Pujya Swamiji, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi and Diwan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan.



Lighting the inaugural lamp at the launch in New Delhi with the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat and renowned saints and dignitaries.

The Encyclopedia of Hinduism comprises 11 volumes of approximately 600 pages each. The more than 7000 entries that can be found within these historically-unprecedented volumes are the collective work of more than 1000 scholars from around the world.



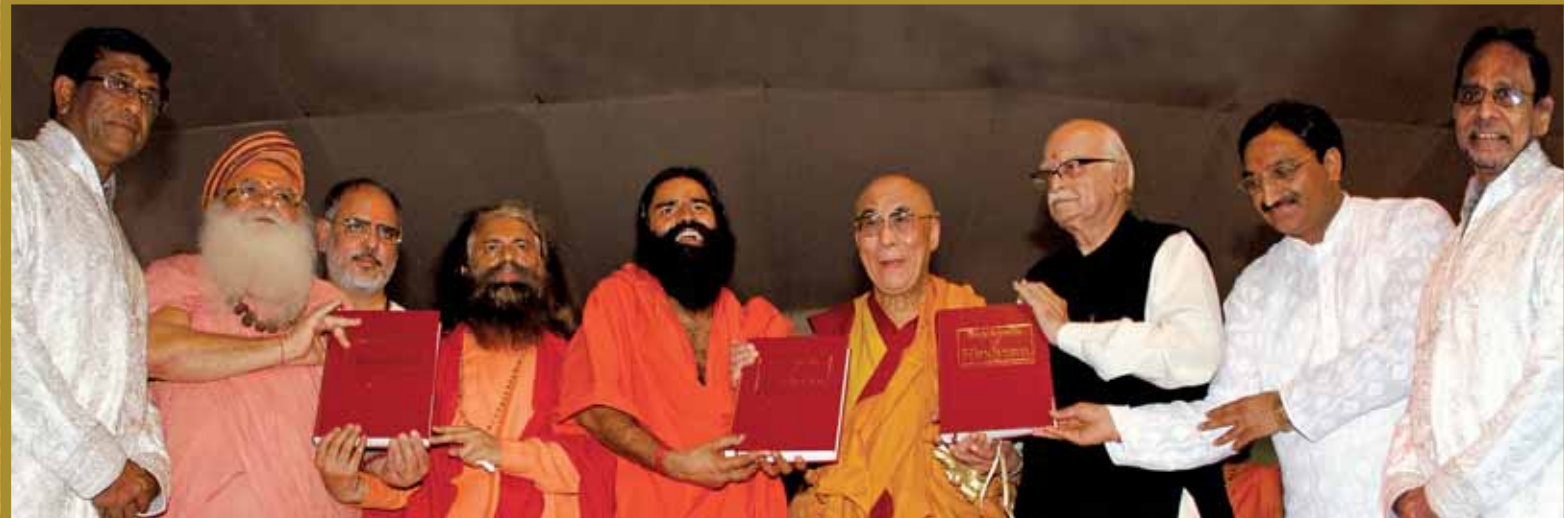
Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, is presented with the Encyclopedia of Hinduism.



Presenting the International Edition of the Encyclopedia to Pujya Shri Morari Bapu.



Sadhvi Bhagwatiji speaking about the Hindu tradition and culture at the launch in London by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. David Cameron.



Launch of the Indian edition of the Encyclopedia in the Maha Kumbha Mela in Haridwar by H.H. the Dalai Lama, and (left to right) Dr. Kiran Patel, Puja Swami Gurusharananand, Puja Shri Rameshbhai Oza, Puja Swamiji, Puja Swami Ramdev, Mananiya Shri LK Advani, Dr. Ramesh Pokhariyal "Nishank" and Shri Hasu Shah.



Minister of Tourism, Dr Mahesh Sharma, accepts a beautiful Encyclopaedia of Hinduism set from Puja Swamiji.



Presenting the India edition of the Encyclopedia to Puja Shri Morari Bapu and Puja Goswami Indira Beti.



Academic launch of the Encyclopedia at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, presided over by Dr. Harris Pastides the President of the University.



Presenting the Encyclopedia of Hinduism to Hon'ble Padmashri Dr. Karan Singh, of India's Upper House of Parliament.



Presenting of a sacred rudraksh sapling to Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat and Imam Umar Ilyasi, President of the All India Association of Imams and Diwan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan, Ajmer Sharif Shrine.



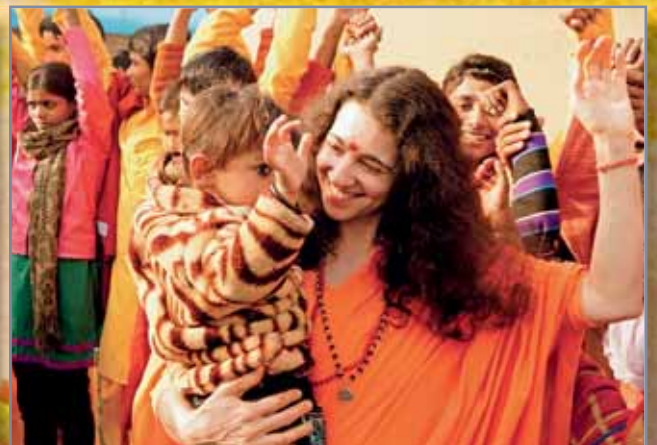
Divine Shakti Foundation



The Divine Shakti Foundation is dedicated to the holistic well being of women, their children, and orphaned/abandoned children, and to all of Mother Nature and Mother Earth. Our programs include free schools for children, women's vocational training programs, women's empowerment programs and international events bringing women (and men) together to discover and nurture their oneness with the Divine Feminine.

Schools, vocational training and empowerment programs: poverty, illiteracy and lack of training are tragically common in India. With increasing population, basic education and marketable skills have become absolute necessities in order to subsist in even the smallest communities. Hence, those who lack this education and training go to sleep hungry each night. DSF is dedicated to providing them with the best chance possible to live a life free from destitution. The Divine Shakti Foundation's programs encompass children's schools for both girls and boys as well as computer centers where they learn practice and theory, as well as specialized vocational training and empowerment centers for girls and young women.







Shakti and Prakriti - Women and the Earth -- major plenary panel by Divine Shakti Foundation and Global Interfaith WASH Alliance at the World Parliament of Religions. Left to right: Grove Harris, Kiran Bali, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Marianne Williamson, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati.



Divine Shakti Foundation's livelihoods centre just 25 km from Kedarnath Dham is filled with Himalayan women working with joy.



A DSF beneficiary shares her smile and gratitude for the new livelihood skills she learned to feed her family.



Women learning computer skills through a Divine Shakti Foundation programme.



Hon'ble Minister of Education for Uttarakhand and Bharat Mitra, Founder President of Organic India, join for a tree plantation at the inauguration of DSF's newly constructed Brightland School in Rudraprayag.



Sadhvi Bhagawati takes part in a panel at the Uplift Festival in Australia on Engaged Spirituality with (left to right) Guru Singh, Bharat Mitra, Ihab Bahla, Bruce Lipton, Anita Moorjani, Eben Alexander and Lama Thupten Phuntsok.



Eminent environmentalist Dr. Vandana Shiva inspires all about the vital role of women and feminine energy in saving all sacred rivers.



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation (DSF) is presented with beautiful artwork on environmental preservation by children from a DSF-sponsored school.



Beautiful children at one of the schools sponsored by the Divine Shakti Foundation.



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji speaks at the special Vaicharik Maha Kumbha - Shakti Kumbha - event in the Simhastha Kumbha Mela.



DSF leads an International Women's Day pledge to protect and serve the divine feminine.



Women and teachers at one of DSF's vocational training centers in Rishikesh



DSF's rebuilds a school in Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand that had been washed away in the tragic 2013 floods.



DSF's rebuilds a school in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand that had been destroyed in the 2013 floods.



Sadhvi Bhagawati, President of DSF, gives a beautiful talk on the Empowerment of Women, at the Buddhist Heritage Festival in Leh, Ladakh with international women leaders.



Celebrating International Green Raksha Bandhan with a pledge to protect our environment.



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati lovingly embraces a young developmentally challenged girl



A mass Swachhta Sankalp (Pledge for Cleanliness) is taken by school children of a DSF sponsored school on Teacher's Day.

PROJECT

Hope

Project Hope

Flood Relief in Uttarakhand

In June 2013, flash floods caused the height of the Ganga River to rise to levels unseen in the last 100 years, devastating Uttarakhand's Himalayan region and taking the lives of thousands of men, women and children. Hotels, businesses, homes, towns and villages lining the river's banks collapsed, while others were torn apart or crushed by landslides. Roads were destroyed and bridges shattered, causing cars and buses full of people to plummet from steep mountainsides.

As a direct response, Project Hope—founded, led and guided by HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji—brought together organizations, civil society, medical professionals and dedicated volunteers as one team to facilitate rescue efforts and inspire long-term green rehabilitation and reconstruction for the affected regions.

Today, Project Hope's focus includes empowering schools with green technologies and safe construction techniques. We are also working towards enabling the vision for clean water and fruit plantations in schools, to protect and nurture the health of Uttarakhand's children.

In addition, Project Hope is providing vocational skills training and women's empowerment programs, to enable devastated populations to return to self-sufficiency. These include zero-budget organic farming and produce buy-back programmes, handicrafts production, training in construction and the production of water filters, vocational classes in schools, a special cow initiative and more. In such a way, livelihoods are being rebuilt in harmony with the local culture, poverty is being reduced, and the environment is being protected.



Women who were widowed by the tragic floods are being granted new hope and new opportunities to earn a livelihood through Project Hope's Vocational Programme.

**For Updates on our Women's Empowerment Programmes,
Newly-Rebuilt Schools and more
visit www.divineshaktifoundation.org and www.projecthope-india.org**



Inauguration of newly constructed Brightland School in Rudraprayag with Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Education and Drinking Water and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture



Pujya Swamiji inspires the students at the newly rebuilt Uttarkashi School.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan and his wife, Smt. Sadhnaji, flag off one of Project Hope's supply-laden trucks for the villagers tragically affected by the floods.



More than 20 buses were sent by Project Hope laden with medicines, food supplies, blankets, warm clothes and mobile phones to rescue approximately 1,000 stranded pilgrims.



Project Hope volunteers provide relief and medical care in the wake of the disaster.



Ganga Action Parivar

Hope is in Your Hands



The holy, life-giving Ganga is one of the most at-risk rivers in the world. Every day, it is polluted by some three billion liters of sewage and chemical waste, threatening the health and lives of millions. Its ecology, containing some of the world's rarest plants and wildlife, is under similar threat.

On April 4th, 2010 by the hands of H.H. the Dalai Lama, H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, former Deputy Prime Minister Hon'ble Shri L.K. Advani, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Major General B.C. Khanduri and many revered saints and dignitaries, Ganga Action Parivar was officially launched at Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh at a special "Sparsh Ganga" ("Divine Touch of Ganga") function, an event to raise awareness about the need for collective and holistic, solution-based action to address the crucial issues facing the holy river. Since then, hundreds of supporters and family members have been mobilized, coming together to find solutions to the problems facing Ganga and Her tributaries.



Pujya Swamiji leads a sankalp (pledge) to work to keep Ganga's waters clean with H.H. the Dalai Lamaji, Shri L.K. Advaniji, Pujya Swami Ramdevji and other distinguished leaders



Hindu saints and respected Muslim Leaders meet to raise awareness on issues related to Mother Ganga



Dr. Vandana Shiva and Dr. BD Tripathi inaugurate a lamp for a workshop to collectively write a compelling white paper on the Ganga.



Clean-ups of the banks of Mother Ganga bring together the young and the old to make their communities clean, green and serene.

“We must give and give like Mother Ganga- with no hesitation, no expectation and no discrimination.”

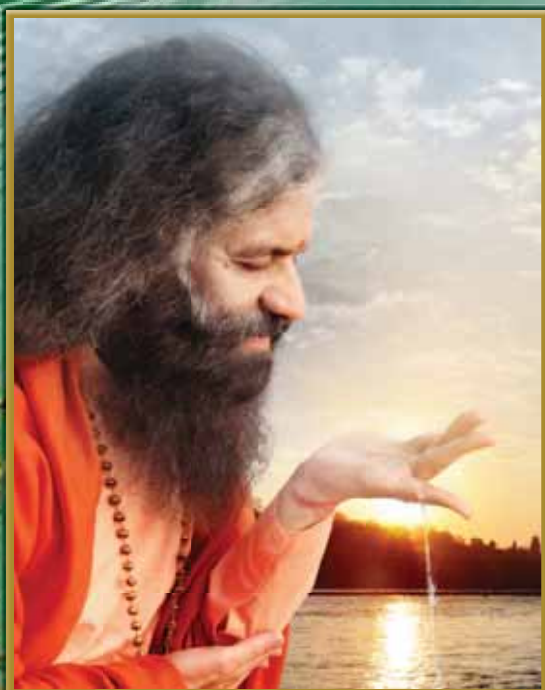
- Pujya Swamiji



Holidays and birthdays are celebrated with tree plantations to turn them into a beautiful message of giving back and protecting our environment.

6 T's

*For Environmental
Preservation*



When Pujya Swamiji, Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, completed 60 years of life, everyone wanted to give Him birthday presents. He however declared that there is nothing He wants, nothing He needs, but only the gift of people committing themselves to the “6Ts” program, which signifies six-ty years of life.

Ganga Action Parivar's Six Ts program provides a foundation for a cleaner, greener, more sustainable Ganga River Basin. Through its comprehensive, interlinked initiatives, the people, animals and ecology of the watershed are enabled to not only survive, but thrive.

In so doing, GAP has identified six categories of outreach that are designed to complement each other: Toilets, Trash, Trees, Taps, Tracks and Tigers.



Toilets.

Over 500 million people live near the Ganga River and its tributaries. Many have no access to sanitary facilities. Populations are forced to use the Ganga as a toilet out of necessity, fouling its waters and potentially spreading disease. We will be providing thousands of eco-friendly toilets to villages and other locations throughout the Ganga River Basin.



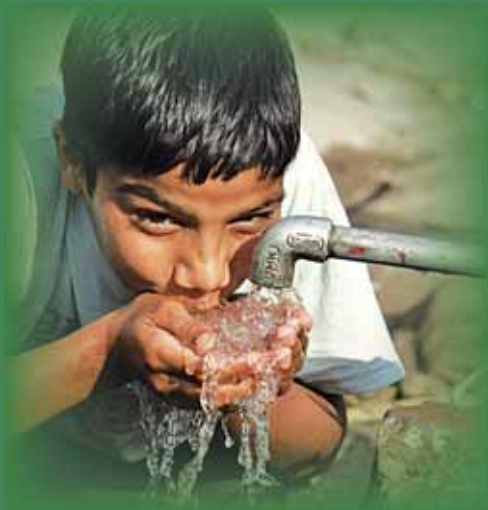
Trees.

Trees are crucial to life. Yet, to meet the needs of rapidly-expanding populations, far too many trees have been cut down, robbing the Ganga River Basin of its key benefactor. GAP is planting and maintaining thousands of trees as a direct response.



Tigers.

Under the Six T's program, "Tigers" represents all endangered animals inhabiting the Ganga River Basin. Working side-by-side with conservation groups, GAP provides education and awareness programs, enabling populations and visitors to become protectors of their own environments, enabling nature's creatures to flourish as they should.



Taps.

Access to clean and safe drinking water is a basic human right. Yet, every year in India alone, 400,000 children die, and many more are sickened, by water-borne diseases such as typhoid, dysentery and cholera. Adding to the problem are contaminated and shrinking ground water tables alongside untamed pollution in the Ganga. GAP works to provide taps to the rural poor, as well as water filtration systems, while also teaching skills in proper water use management.



Trash.

In the Ganga River Basin, trash is often disposed of directly into or near the river, endangering wildlife, plants, and populations, while also spoiling the appearance of what should be pristine waters. GAP works with local populations, municipalities, and administrators to ensure proper trash disposal, including rubbish bins and recycling. Additionally, GAP provides mass awareness campaigns, aimed at motivating populations and visitors as to how to properly dispose of their waste before it reaches the Ganga.



Tracks.

The Indian train network is one of the most impressive in the world and also one of the dirtiest. GAP is providing the Ministry of Railways with concepts and ideas for new initiatives for cleaning and greening the land alongside the rail tracks. GAP also helps to advise regarding the improvement of sanitary facilities within India's trains and train stations.



Hundreds of people from across the world pledge to be caring stewards of Mother Ganga, vowing to help inspire more for the mission of keeping Her waters clean.



Shri RS Goenka, Joint Chairman of Emami Foundation, and other dignitaries lay the first bricks for a GAP/GIWA Bio-Toilet Complex for girls.



A team of scientists and experts from Organic India to meet Hon'ble Shri Prakash Javedekar Minister of HRD & Former Environment Minister, for an Organic Revolution in India.



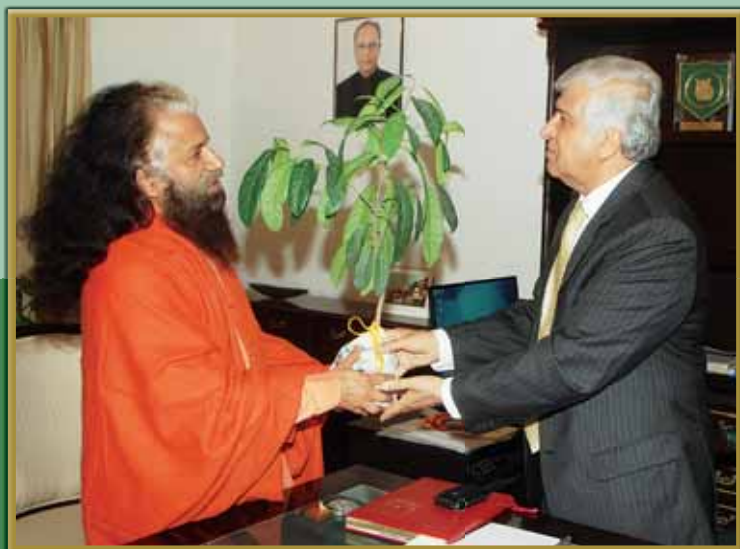
School girls team up with Ganga Action Parivar to plant trees for clean, green and serene banks of the River Ganga.



Dr. Vinod Tare of IIT Kanpur, Puja Swamiji, environmentalist Dr. Vandana Shiva and other delegates at a GAP conference of experts at Parmarth Niketan regarding the revitalization of the Ganga River.



Pujya Swamiji leads a pledge for a clean Ganga in Gangotri with Hon'ble Shri L.K. Advani and former CMs of Uttarakhand, Dr. Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank, Shri B.C. Khanduri and now Union Minister for Ganga Revitalization, Sadhvi Umashri Bharti.



Presenting a beautiful Rudraksha sapling to H.E. the Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr. Krishan Kant Paul, during a meeting on the green and sustainable development of Uttarakhand.



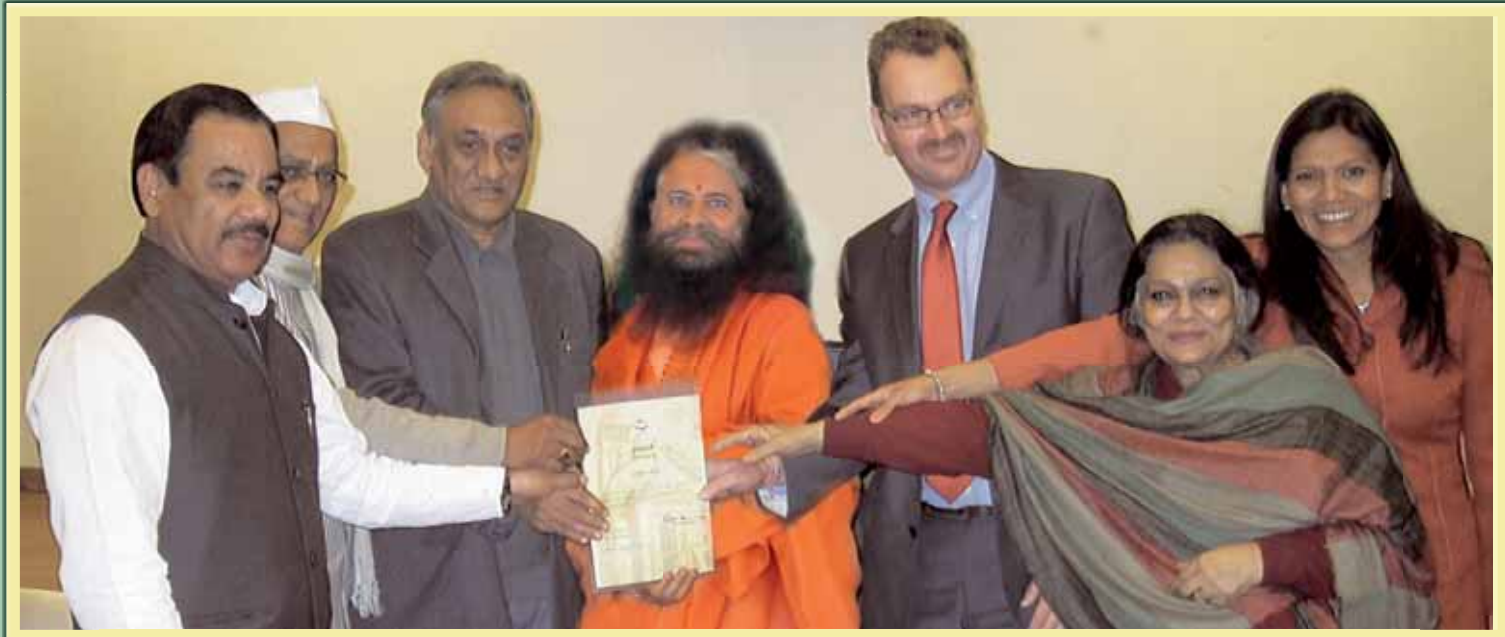
Presenting Uttar Pradesh Governor, H.E. Shri Ram Naik and his loving wife with a sacred rudraksha tree, symbolizing the need for everyone to come together to plant leafy trees alongside the Ganga.



Yogis from over 50 nations celebrate togetherness for Mother Ganga and sign the Yogis for Ganga Declaration.



GAP joins forces with the Army and local school children to clean and green a train station between Rishikesh and Haridwar.



Pujya Swamiji receives a special honor for His leadership in the wake of the Uttarakhand Flood. (left to right): Minister of Agriculture, Harak Singh Rawat, Minister of Industries & Labour, Harish Chandra Durgapal, then Hon'ble CM of Uttarakhand, Vijay Bahuguna, Deputy High Commissioner of Britain, David Lelliott.



Inauguration of the Ganga Gyan Dhara Workshop at Parmarth Niketan with Convenor of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, Shri Manoj Mishra, Fmr. Chairman Central Pollution Control Board, Shri Paritosh Tyagi, Namami Gange Central Committee Member, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, and other lauded experts.



Ganga Action Parivar leads a special World Environment Day celebration in which school children display their personal messages of hope for this world.



Actress Dia Mirza joins for a clean up on the banks of Ganga.



Puja Swamiji and Puja Sri Sri Ravi Shankar discuss plans for greening flood-stricken Kedarnath and Kedar Valley.



India's Hon'ble Union Railways Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu, performs a ceremony on the banks of the River Ganga at Parmarth Niketan to consecrate bricks for a new GIWA/GAP bio-toilet complex.



Puja Swamiji, Puja M.M. Swami Gurusharanand Maharaj, and Puja Swami Avdeshanand Giri Maharaj bless Shri Anna Hazare with a tree sapling.



Kiran Bali, the Global Chair of the world's largest interfaith organization, the United Religions Initiative and Victor Kazanjian, United Religion Initiative's Executive Director at the launch of the Cow Action Network (CAN) .



Presentation of Green Vision for Uttarakhand Delegation by the participants in Ganga Action Parivar/GIWA/Project Hope's conference to then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. (L to R): Puja Swami Avdeshanand Giri, Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi, then Uttarakhand CM Hon'ble Shri Vijay Bahuguna, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Former Uttarakhand CM Hon'ble Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" and Shri Prem Babaji.



Hindu and Muslim leaders join together to green the banks of the Gomti River in Lucknow.



An interfaith march for peace and cleanliness during the GIWA - UNICEF Ladakh Summit, which united top interfaith leaders in the name of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for all.



Tree Plantation in Ladakh with Hon'ble Dr. Harsh Vardhan and interfaith leaders during GIWA's Worship for WASH Summit.



GAP inspires young girls to join the "Shakti for Prakriti" greening drive.



A beautiful clean up brought together a diverse, interfaith community to work together for a Swachh Bharat.



Pujya Swamiji leads a special interfaith prayer, joined by Hon'ble Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, during the Worship for WASH Ladakh Summit.



The "Mid-Day Fruit Programme" is launched with youth and children planting hundreds of fruit trees.

Mansarovar Tibet Ashrams



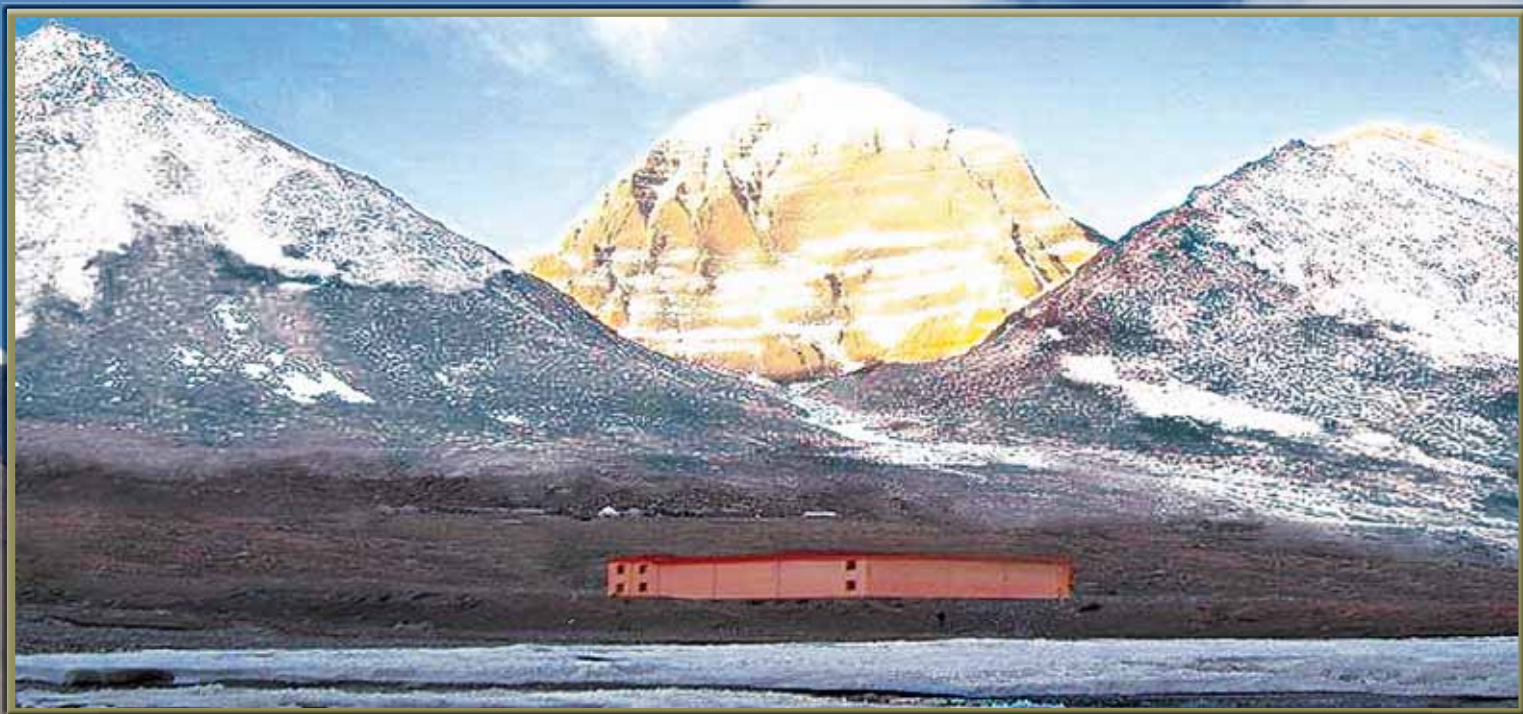
Satsang and Meditation Hall at Parmarth
Mansarovar Ashram - Paryang

In July 2003, we inaugurated the Parmarth Kailash-Mansarovar Ashram on the banks of Lake Mansarovar, the first ashram ever in this holy land. There are 20 rooms with 5-8 beds each. Additionally there are 2 large halls for katha, meditation and satsang, which can also serve as additional dormitories. In 2004, a team of nearly 40 doctors and medical assistants traveled from USA in the first free medical camp in Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash.

There are now 3 Parmarth Kailash-Mansarovar ashrams, on the banks of Lake Mansarovar, in Paryang, Tibet and in Dirapuk at a height of nearly 17,000 feet, on the sacred Mt. Kailash parikrama route. Dirapuk is the place where all yatrias who are undertaking the parikrama spend their first night, 20 km beyond the starting point. It is the location from which the darshan of Kailash is the closest, clearest and most spectacular. The ashram is double-storied with nearly 50 rooms, as well as a hall and dining facilities. All rooms face Mt. Kailash.

In September 2009, Pujya Swamiji officially inaugurated the Dirapuk ashram, with over 150 yatrias from around the world, as well as local Buddhist monks and dignitaries & officials of the Tibet Autonomous Region. The ashram is already a great boon for the town, as we hired local people for the construction and trained them in masonry, carpentry and painting. The ashram is run and maintained by local Tibetans, and proceeds from the ashram go back into the community for education, health care and other projects.

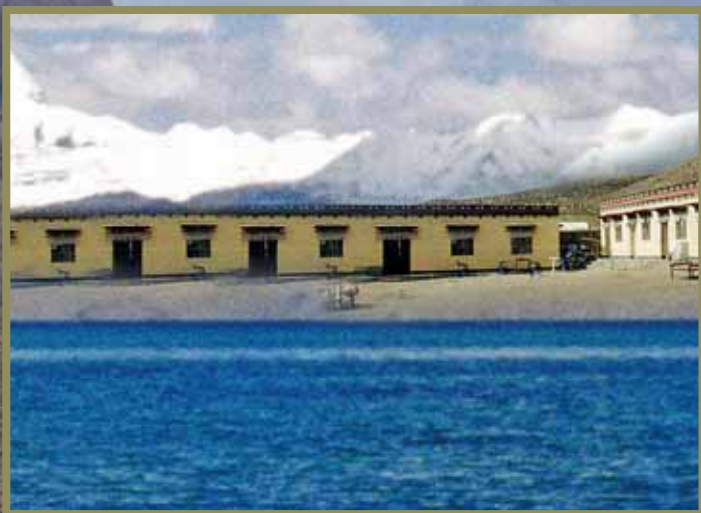
Previously, in 2006, we inaugurated the Parmarth Mansarovar Ashram in Paryang, Tibet, the place where all yatrias stay the night before reaching Lake Mansarovar. The ashram has more than 20 rooms -- singles, doubles & triples, and also two large halls for satsang, meditation or for use as dormitories.



Rear view of Parmarth Mansarovar Ashram, Dirapuk. All rooms in the ashram face Mt. Kailash



Local children in Paryang at the Parmarth Paryang Ashram



Parmarth Mansarovar Ashram on Lake Mansarovar



Medical Clinic at Mansarovar Ashram



Front view of Parmarth Dirapuk Ashram



Project Hope

Earthquake Relief in Nepal

Working Together. Serving Together.

In April, 2015, a 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal, leaving entire communities in ruins. Project Hope, an initiative founded, inspired and led by HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, was nearly immediately on the scene, rushing three huge trucks of supplies as well as volunteers from Nepal and India to aid thousands of people. Within days, 5,000 tents and tarpaulines (tripals), 10,000 blankets, 10,000 water bottles, 15,000 packets of daily supplies, 15,000 packets of food supplies, solar lanterns and many other items were distributed. In addition, Project Hope's medical team provided free treatment for those sickened or injured by the disaster. In all, thus far Project Hope has served nearly 11,000 families in over twenty villages with much needed relief supplies.

Project Hope was founded in the wake of the Asian tsunami of 2004, and reactivated in 2013 in response to the tragic floods in Uttarakhand's Himalayas. To learn more about our continuing relief efforts in Uttarakhand, please see page 48 of this publication.



Prayers for the people of Nepal before a huge truck full of relief supplies rushes from Rishikesh to the scene of the earthquake.

Under Pujya Swamiji's guidance, Project Hope volunteers, including over 50 local women, continue to serve many of the remote villages in Nepal. Some of the projects Project Hope undertook, completed and is in the process of taking up include:

- Provision of medical relief and aid by coordinating doctors and health care professionals to serve and holding camps for needy populations.
- Widescale distribution of relief materials in remote villages that were affected by the earthquake.
- Rebuilding a beloved temple and meditation centre that had been destroyed by the earthquake.
- Organizing a national-scale Prosthetic Limb Camp to serve all those who lost their limbs, especially during the recent tragedy.
- Coordinating WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) awareness and education in Nepal, especially with the support of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's coalition of faith leaders.
- Plans for a community centre entitled, "Matri Chhaya," to provide education and skills-training for children and widowed women.

Learn More at
www.projecthope-india.org

इस आपदा की घड़ी में हम सब साथ हैं

PROJECT HOPE

ONE TEAM, ONE THEME

Serving the Survivors of the
NEPAL EARTHQUAKE



Visiting patients being treated by a caring team of physicians for earthquake injuries



While on tour of a temple destroyed by the earthquake, Pujya Swamiji vowed that Project Hope would rebuild the temple



Project Hope volunteer physicians treat patients directly after the disaster



Distribution of relief supplies to ease the suffering of people impacted by the earthquake

Many hands are coming together for our crucial mission to help ensure health and healing for the countless people who were impacted by the tragic earthquake in Nepal. We thank our dedicated team of partners, volunteers and sponsors for their compassionate and continued support as one team with one theme: *to Work Together and Serve Together.*

Project Hope

The Tsunami of Southern India



Project Hope was founded at the hands of H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati following the tragic tsunami of December 2004.

In the direct wake of the unprecedented disaster, Pujya Swamiji, Vivek Oberoi, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Rishikumars from the Parmarth Gurukul and Vivek Oberoi's family traveled down to South India. Upon seeing the devastation wrought upon the land and the people, we knew we needed to stay and offer not only short-term assistance, but also long-term, permanent relief. Our extensive and comprehensive relief work included immediate emergency measures as well as permanent reconstruction of entire villages and the construction of an orphanage, school, medical center and women's training center.



The final stage in the work was completed and inaugurated on May 12, 2007. The orphanage, which we built for the tsunami orphans as well as facilities for over 300 children who had been orphaned prior to the tsunami, was inaugurated by H.E. the Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala with Pujya Swamiji.



The orphanage includes dormitory facilities, school rooms, a computer center, medical room, beautiful kitchen and dining facilities, a vocational training center and more. It has been built on the same land as the previously existing home for approximately 200 widowed/abandoned ladies, which we also renovated and beautified. We have also built a vocational training center for the ladies, and the new huge dining/kitchen facilities are shared by both the children and the ladies.



Project Hope's rebuilt village in Pondicherry



Immediately upon arriving in the devastated areas, we began with distribution of water and other essentials. Within two days we had set up seven huge community kitchens, feeding thousands of affected villagers two hot meals every day. The ground breaking ceremony for the orphanage and ladies' home project was performed by the Hon'ble Governors of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Uttarakhand.



Gurukuls & Orphanages

Cultivating Jewels



Simple shelters with food, beds and babysitters are not sufficient for the impoverished, orphaned and disadvantaged children of rural and mountainous India. All children need not only to be fed and sheltered -- they need to be educated and trained so they can be productive members of society. They need to

be inculcated with values, ethics and spirituality which will make them torchbearers of Indian culture.

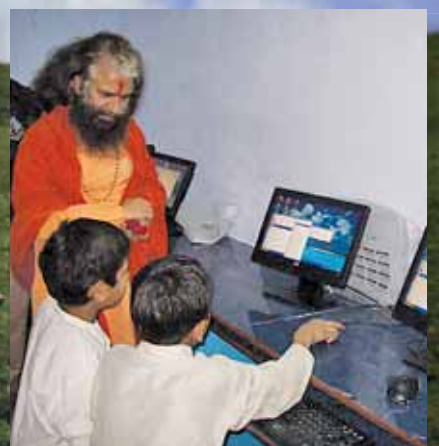
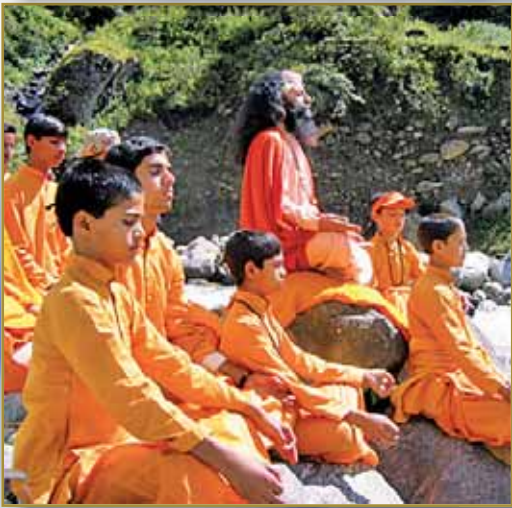
Our education initiative includes the following essential components: (1) a full, standard academic education, (2) training in the ancient Vedic knowledge and traditions, (3) a moral and value-based education which is crucially needed in modern society.

In the "Dust to Diamonds" program, our gurukuls/orphanages provide 500 young, impoverished, disadvantaged boys with a basic academic education, as well as intensive Sanskrit and ancient Vedic texts. Their days are filled with yoga, meditation, Vedic chanting, reading of scriptures, mathematics, seva and special programs designed to infuse their lives with essential values and ethics. They are not only getting a full academic education, but they are also being trained to be cultural ambassadors, carrying with them -- wherever they go -- the deep values and culture of honesty, integrity, purity, piety, dedication and selflessness.

Once a child comes to the orphanage/gurukul, a rapid, divine transformation takes place. Looks of hopelessness become looks of great optimism and hope. Lightless eyes become bright shining eyes. Feelings of destitution and despair become feelings of pride, of faith and of enthusiasm.

The rishikumars travel on yatra to the Himalayas, perform yoga, yagna and prayers on the banks of Mother Ganga, study academics and computers as well as the scriptures, perform dramas based on Indian spiritual history and -- of course -- have time to run and play!





Rural Development for Green and Serene Lives



Part of the land in Veerpur, on the banks of the Ganga.
In the background is the Gaushala.



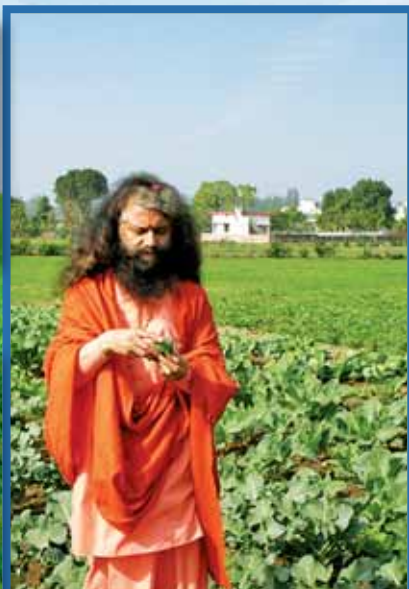
View from the rooms of Veerpur Ashram.



Rooms at Veerpur Ashram,
overlooking the Ganga.



Elephants come to drink water
from the Ganga.



Pujya Swamiji picks the first
organic broccoli harvest.

In different rural areas on the banks of Ganga and in the nearby hilly areas is our special Rural Development Program to enable eco-friendly, self-sufficient lives.

The Rural Development Program's components include:

- Solid waste management
- Sewage control and sanitation programs through laying of sewage lines in the village and construction of toilets for the villagers, so that no pollution goes into Ganga.
- Tree plantation program
- Construction of a proper road in the village
- Organic gardening program. We have brought in trained organic farmers and scientists to teach the local farmers alternative, chemical-free methods of farming. Further, we have our own organic farm.
- Spirituality and Culture – we have started an evening devotional ceremony at Veerpur on the banks of the Ganga, called Aarti. It is a way for the villagers to come together in a spirit of peace, culture and piety.
- Girl's Orphanage - Plans are underway to open an orphanage for abandoned young girls and babies in the beautiful, natural surroundings of Veerpur.

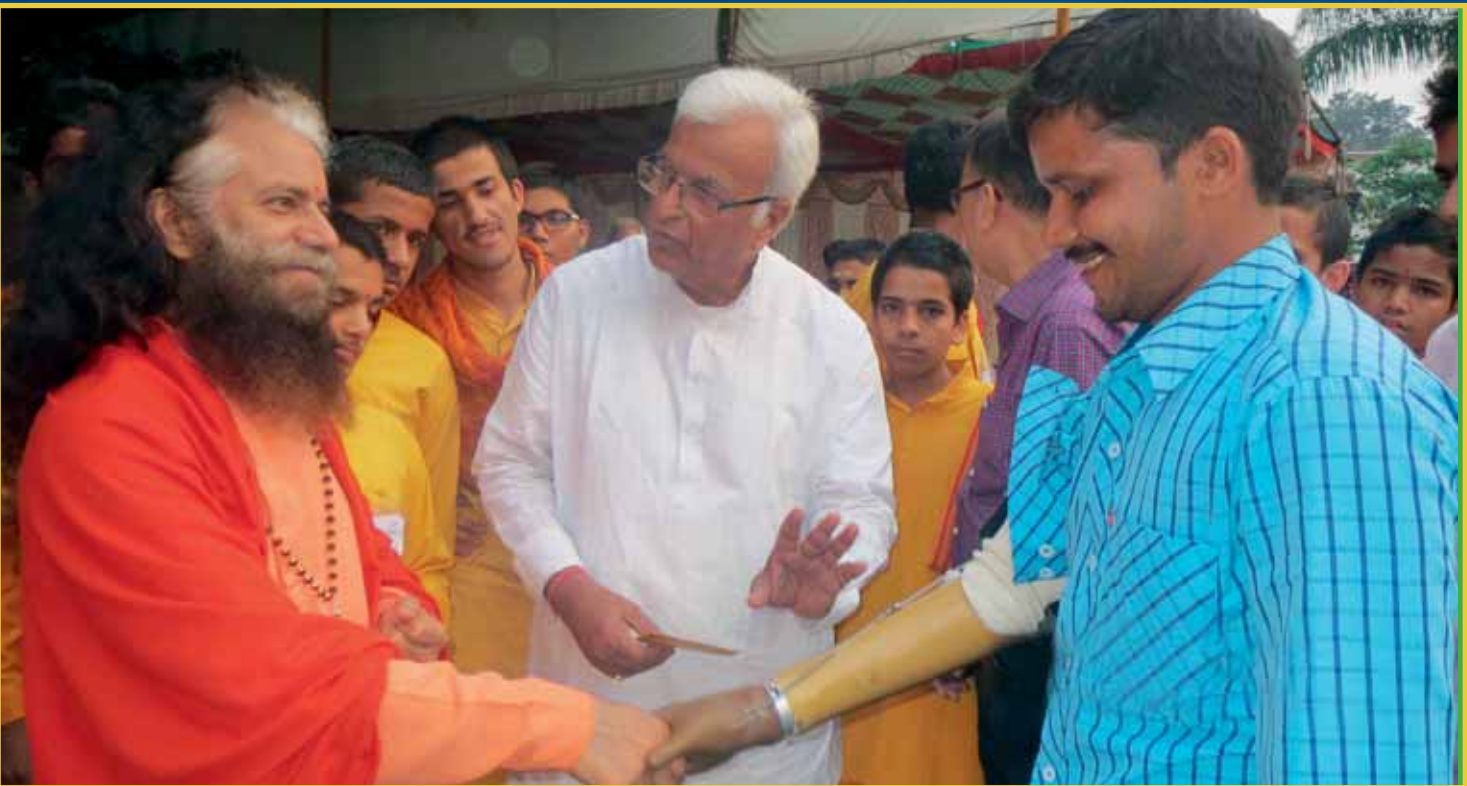
Project Give-Back

The Heart of Healing

We are committed to providing health care to those who would otherwise go untreated. To this end, we sponsor and support numerous health care programs and runs several annual free health care camps in Rishikesh as well as in other rural areas ranging from Mansarovar and Kailash to the Himalayan region.

Each year, there are numerous free medical health care camps, ranging from urology camps to eye camps (including free cataract surgeries), and including nearly every discipline. Hundreds of patients receive free testing, diagnoses, medicines and treatment for ailments that otherwise would go undiagnosed and untreated.





Every week, our caring volunteers travel to some of the most remote of Himalayan villages, disaster zones and other areas to provide compassionate medical care. Many of the men, women and children treated by our team of medical professionals and sevaks have few to no opportunities to see doctors, and are thus overjoyed when our *Free Medical Camp* banner rises for all to see.

Beautiful medical camps are also held at Parmarth Niketan throughout the year, offering specialty services, including prosthetic limbs, eye care, physiotherapy and much, much more.

If you are a medical practitioner and would like to volunteer to serve with us, please email: ganga@parmarth.com

An overjoyed recipient of a prosthetic limb during one of our free medical camps shakes Pujya Swamiji's hand for the first time.



Chiropractic care and physical therapy in a remote Himalayan village.





New prosthetic limbs, made on-site at Parmarth Niketan as patients wait during a special medical camp.



Above and Left: compassionate medical care at Parmarth's Medical Camps in remote Himalayan villages by professionals and loving volunteers from around the world.

The National Ganga Rights Movement



Founded by Pujya Swamiji, the National Ganga River Rights movement is a coalition of concerned citizens and organizations that are taking a stand on behalf of the Ganga River and its tributaries—while there is still time.

For far too long, people have said there is nothing that can be done. But all the while, the water that nourishes us has become so polluted that it has become a hot-spot for cancers and other deadly diseases, such as typhoid and cholera. The beautiful river that has inspired poets and sages has sadly become one of the most endangered rivers in the world.

As a coalition, we bring a new and strong voice, backed by the successes in nations such as Ecuador, New Zealand and the United States. But we need you to help us make the change. Sign the petition for Ganga's rights at www.gangarights.org.



Pujya Swamiji, revered saints and people from some 50 nations come together to say, "Ganga's rights are our rights."



The National Ganga Rights Act draft is proudly held by then Governor of Uttar Pradesh HE Shri B.L. Joshi and then Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources (now Chief Minister of Uttarakhand), Shri Harish Rawat



5,000 students raise their voices during the Ganga Rights Rally organized by Ganga Action Parivar at the Kumbh Mela.



Pujya Swami Ramdevji and Pujya Prem Baba for Ganga's Rights.



The cast of C.I.D. stands for Ganga's Rights.



Shri Anna Hazare and Muslim leaders stand with Pujya Swamiji to declare, "Ganga's Rights are Our Rights."



Manoj Tiwari stands with dignitaries from DRDO and FICCI for Ganga's Rights.



Vivek Oberoi and other guests at the Kumbha Mela stand for Ganga's Rights.

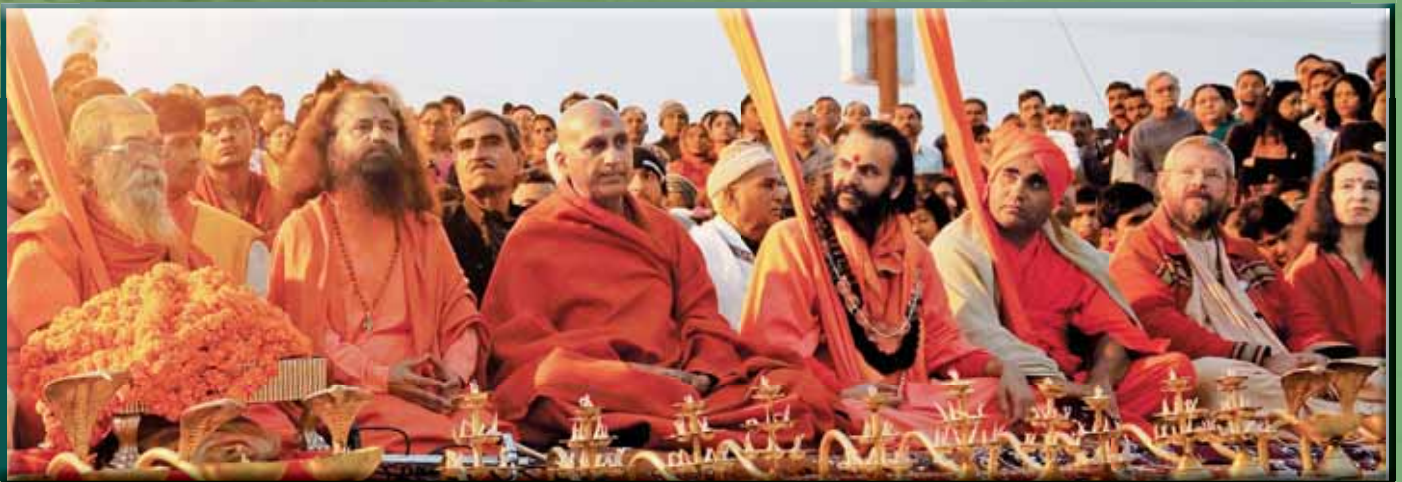


School children march alongside the Ganga for the National Ganga Rights Movement.

The Green Kumbh Initiative

Kumbh Mela is one of the most ancient, and yet still living, traditions of India's glorious past. The festival dates back to the pre-Vedic period, as even in the Vedas Kumbh Mela is described as a tradition that was already well established. The popularity of Kumbh Mela has only increased over the millennia, gathering millions together every twelve years at each of the four holy places, Prayag Raj- Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik, in which the auspicious event occurs and making it the world's largest gathering of people on Earth. It is said that even those saints and sages who live in divine isolation, high in the Himalayas, engaged only in meditation and austerities, emerge from the mountains to attend the Kumbh. The Kumbh Mela is a world-renowned trademark of India's proud antiquity, and is a matchlessly divine occasion.

Kumbh Mela is a microcosm of the beauty and rich diversity of India. Amidst all the pomp and liveliness, one can drink in the nectar of India's ancient spiritual traditions.



Under the divine inspiration and leadership of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, every mela, most recently the Allahabad Maha Kumbha Mela (2013), Nasik Kumbha (2015), Haridwar Ardha Kumbha (2016) and the Simhastha Kumbha (2016) are opportunities to inspire a Swachhta Kranti (Clean India Revolution). Each gathering truly becomes "A Mela with a Message," as through them masses are engaged to keep our Mother Earth and our sacred rivers free from pollution and free from open-defecation.





HH the Dalai Lama blesses GIWA's pledge wall for a Swachh Bharat at Nasik Kumbha Mela.



The Simhashta Kumbha Mela starts with a call by respected leaders to create a Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution).



A changing station is inaugurated and installed during the Haridwar Ardh Kumbha Mela.



A toilet park is inaugurated at the Simhashta Kumbha Mela.



World famous musicians Kailesh Kher and Sivamani lead a GIWA pledge for a Swachh Bharat during their live concert.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and revered saints inaugurate GIWA's first Kshipra Maha Aarti during the Ujjain Kumbha Mela.



A GIWA mass procession spreads awareness on a Swacch aur Sundar Bharat (Clean and Beautiful India).



Pujya Swamiji leads a sankalp (pledge) to make the Kumbha completely open defecation free (ODF).



Parmarth's Bhandara at Simhastha Kumbha



Swachhta Diwas is celebrated at the Nasik Kumbha Mela.



Pujya Swamiji inspires Religious Social Responsibility to work for creating a Clean India and Clean Ganga.



A pledge for environmental protection and water conservation at the Haridwar Ardh Kumbha Mela.



Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji speaks about the great need for adequate sanitation for young girls.



A pledge with revered saints taken at the Haridwar Ardh Kumbha Mela to work together and inspire villages, towns and cities along the River Ganga to become Open Defecation Free.

“The best way to honour God is through service to humanity.”
- Pujya Swamiji



GREEN KATHAS *for a* CLEAN, GREEN & SERENE WORLD

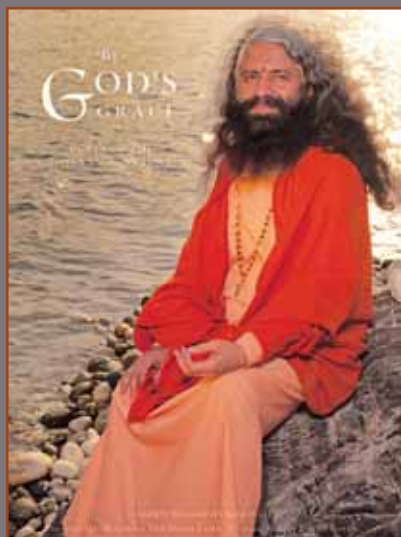


Pujya Swamiji has inspired “Kathakar Social Responsibility” (KSR), like Corporate Social Responsibility, to utilize the immense power that Kathakars have in reaching their communities through their commentaries on religious scriptures to create positive change and green action amongst the masses. He urges that the time has come that our festivals, our kathas and our holidays must be green and sustainable. He says, “through our respected Kathakars and their Kathakar Social Responsibility, we can be inspired and charged to make every moment and minute of our lives more green and more sustainable.”



Publications

By God's Grace



The Life and Teachings of H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji by Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, with a foreword by H.H. the Dalai Lamaji and preface by Rabbi David Rosen. In this compelling biography, Pujya Swamiji's divine life is beautifully detailed chronologically. Upon its release, this book held the NUMBER ONE position as the best-seller in Amazon.com's Hindusim section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

Illustrated with exquisite photos of Ganga, the Himalayas, and all of the saints and world leaders with who Pujya Swamiji has spent the first 60 years of His life, it tells the inspiring, uplifting and transformative stories of Pujya Swamiji's whole life – from meeting His Guru at the tender age of eight, to His youth filled with intense sadhana in the Himalayan forests and jungles, including standing on one leg for 11 hours a day. By God's Grace then goes on to beautifully describe Pujya Swamiji's arrival into Rishikesh and choice of stay there, followed by the history of His life at Parmarth Niketan, first as a young student and then as head of one of India's largest spiritual institutions. You will read about His travels around

the world, touching and teaching people of all religions, all cultures and all walks of life.

Pujya Swamiji's very life is His message; the book also includes special "teaching" sections. Each special teaching spread takes one of Pujya Swamiji's most fundamental teachings and shares it, in His own words, through His own voice, on gorgeously illustrated pages.

Published by Mandala Earth Publications of California, USA, this book is perfect for personal reading and for gracing the top of your coffee table, and it is also the perfect gift for any friend or loved one who, whether they know Pujya Swamiji personally or not, is looking for a glimpse into the life of one of history's truest, wisest, deepest, funniest and most down-to-earth spiritual leaders. Laugh, cry, look at yourself and your life in a brand new way.

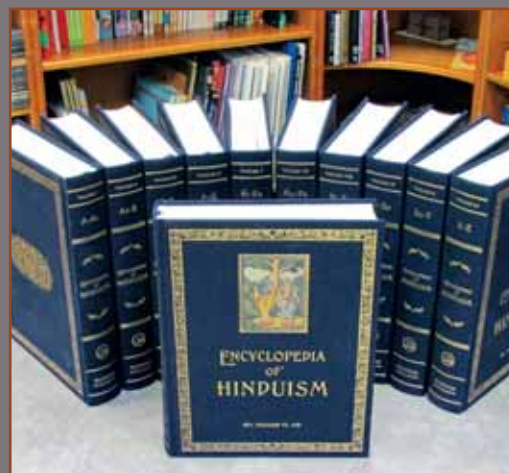
For more information, visit www.bygodsgracebook.org.



The Encyclopedia of Hinduism

Under the inspiration and leadership of H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF), of which He is the Founder and Chairman, has accomplished the momentous feat of publishing the first, complete, authentic multi-volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism.

The gorgeous 11-volume series delivers depth, breadth, and unsurpassed scholarship with fascinating photos, illustrations, and art. It is truly a compendium of thousands of years of history, science, art, architecture, polity, religion, philosophy and culture. Further, the Encyclopedia is not limited to Hinduism as a religion, but rather provides all inclusive treatment of India's spiritual culture (including coverage of Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism traditions in India).



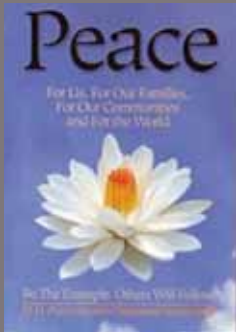
Readers can access quick facts or immerse themselves in detailed articles on any subject related to the history, culture or theology of Indian spirituality, while enjoying vivid and beautiful images of paintings and sculpture, geographic locations, historical figures, key cultural events, and much more. More than 25 years in the making and offering approximately 7000 entries, the Encyclopedia of Hinduism is a historic achievement which has been lauded effusively by the international and national community.

This book is ideal for educators, the general public, and anyone looking for definitive, comprehensive, authentic, and reliable information about the spiritual culture of India.

For more information, visit www.theencyclopediaofhinduism.com



Publications



Peace

For Ourselves, Our Families, Our Communities & Our World by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

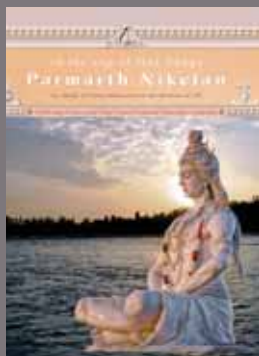
In this beautiful book, Pujya Swamiji eloquently explains how we must find peace within ourselves in order to bring peace to the world. He explores the different levels of peace: internal, family, community and global. He shows us how to turn “pieces into peace” at each level. This book is a must-read for anyone who is ready to bring peace into the world.



Vegetarianism

For Your Body, Your Mind, Your Soul and Your Planet by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

In this widely-released publication, Pujya Swamiji describes the ecological, health and spiritual benefits of a vegetarian diet, with enlightening details on how food contributes to our thoughts. His insight on how meat consumption affects the environment is both scientific and moving, and leaves no doubt that vegetarianism is the best choice.

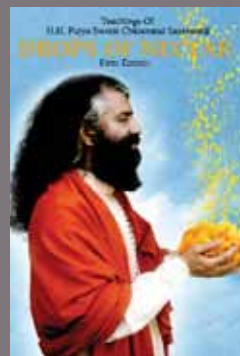


A Place to Be Parmarth Niketan:

An Abode of Peace Dedicated to the Welfare of All

Celebrating 25 years under Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji's leadership

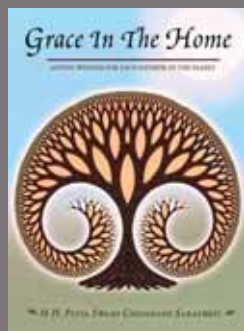
In this beautiful book, the history, lineage and tradition of Parmarth Niketan, from its early inception under Pujya Swami Shukhdevanandji Maharajji, to its present status as one of the largest and most influential ashrams in India is exquisitely detailed, illustrated to chronicle Parmarth's efforts to serve all.



Drops of Nectar

Teachings of H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

In this compilation of articles and stories, Pujya Swamiji's wisdom flows forth simply and eloquently, teaching us how to live divine lives and how to be “better instead of bitter.” Pujya Swamiji's teachings have a simplicity even a child can understand, the compassion which is so important in connecting to adolescents, and a deep profundity which inspires adults.



Grace in the Home

Wisdom For All Ages by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

In this comprehensive volume, Pujya Swamiji counsels on the common conflicts and struggles of Indian families, especially those living abroad. The book covers each phase of life, giving practical tools for living a peaceful family life. Pujya Swamiji's love and depth of wisdom will inspire every home.



Living the Divine Married Life

Make Your Home A Temple by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

Pujya Swamiji's book explores the sacred institution of marriage from a scriptural perspective. With His characteristic grace, humor and wisdom, Pujya Swamiji lovingly offers divine guidance and insight to those on this lifelong journey, offering ways to nourish the partnership and keep a marriage fresh and inspiring.



www.Parmarth.org
www.PujyaSwamiji.org
www.WashAlliance.org
www.GangaAction.org
www.DivineShaktiFoundation.org
www.InternationalYogaFestival.org
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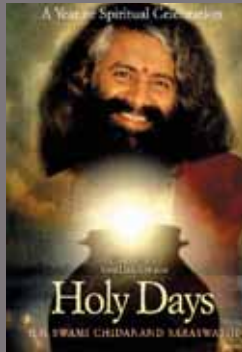
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www.twitter.com/SadhviBhagawati
www.twitter.com/IntlYogaFest



Holy Days

A Year of Spiritual Celebration by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

In this unique book, Pujya Swamiji takes the reader through a year of festivals, from traditional Indian holidays to modern-day celebrations. He explores the spiritual and historical background behind “holy days” and reveals their true meaning and import. The book also explains how, why and when

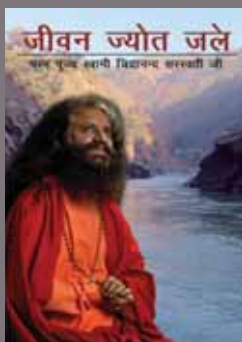
to fast, and the significance of well-known fasting days such as Ekadashi.



Guru Purnima (in Gujarati)

Lectures on the Guru-Disciple Relationship by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

In these inspiring lectures, Pujya Swamiji instructs us on the nature of the Guru-Disciple relationship and how to honor this profound connection. This is a compilation from lectures given by Pujya Swamiji throughout the United States and Canada.

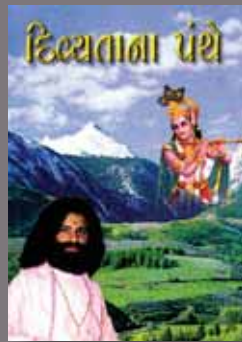


Jivan Jyot Jale (in Hindi)

H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

This is an inspiring collection transcribed from Pujya Swamiji's lectures. Many discourses are devoted to the 16th chapter of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita, which explains man's true divinity and how to manifest that divinity in our lives. Other topics include the

ideal Guru-Disciple relationship and the joy of complete surrender to God.



On the way to Divinity (in Gujarati)

by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

This is an inspiring collection transcribed from Pujya Swamiji's lectures. Many discourses are devoted to the 16th chapter of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita, which explains man's true divinity and how to manifest that divinity in our lives. Other topics include the

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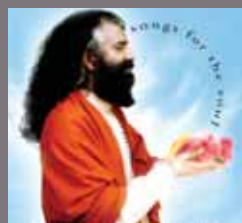


Divine Union

by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

In this book, the ancient Hindu rituals one goes through to get married – from the events leading up to the main ceremony, to the

following days of celebration – are described, and each ritual is beautifully illustrated by artwork spanning the history of India.



CD: “Songs for the Soul”

H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

This is a unique collection of songs that are not typically heard during aarti. The CD includes traditional Vedic chants, as well as beautiful original songs composed by Pujya Swamiji.

VISIT OUR WEBSITES

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WWW.DIVINESHAKTIFOUNDATION.ORG (DIVINE SHAKTI FOUNDATION)

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(INTERFAITH HUMANITARIAN NETWORK)



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In the USA:

603 Bedfordshire Road
Louisville, KY 40222

In India:

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji
Parmarth Niketan
P.O. Swargashram, Rishikesh (Himalayas)
Uttarakhand, 249304- India
Phone: +91(135)244-0070, +91(135)244-0088,
Mobile: +91-757-902-9225, Fax: +91(135)244-0066

Email: parmarth@parmarth.com, ganga@gangaaaction.org, ganga@washalliance.org